



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

UPCOMING EVENTS November/December 2014

Roast Pork Dinner November 2, 12:30 p.m.

Sokol Minnesota Singers November 4 and 18 and December 2 and 16, 10 a.m.

Board of Trustees 7 p.m. November 12 and December 10

Family Night: November 16, 4 p.m.

Board of Directors November 20 and December 18, 7 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting November 21, 7 p.m.

Pancake Breakfast with Bake/Craft Sale November 23, 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

January Slovo Deadline December 1

Children's Christmas Party December 5, 7 p.m.

Family Night *Mikuláš* December 6, 3:30 – 7 p.m.



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2014 Board of Directors

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

Past issues of *Slovo* and Sokol Minnesota's calendar of events are available online at **www.sokolmn.org**

2 November/December 2014 Slovo

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Judy Aubrecht

Pozdrav bratři a sestry/Greetings Brothers and Sisters

As the holiday season approaches, it is an opportunity to look back with appreciation at a few examples of the many Sokol Minnesota cultural and educational events, programs, dinners, dances, and other activities during this year. Our events require extensive planning and coordination and are only possible through the outstanding work of our many volunteers. We currently have over 275 members in Sokol Minnesota. Some members participate by bringing their children to gymnastics or dancing practice. Others serve on boards and committees to help keep the organization moving forward. Some members, with less time or energy, stay involved by attending events, baking their favorite recipe for a bake sale donation, or by reading the *Slovo* to keep up with the latest news. All participation is valuable, and your and your family's involvement help make Sokol a dynamic organization.

An annual spring highlight for Sokol Minnesota is the opportunity to participate in the Festival of Nations in downtown Saint Paul. Over 75 members and friends volunteered at the Czech and Slovak café or the Czech/Slovak cultural booth. Many made time to help, and then saw cultural displays and dance performances of the Czech and Slovak children, teen, and adult dance groups as well as others. We were all so proud that the Czech/Slovak booth, with its replicas of the Václav Havel memorial peace heart and peace candle, won an Award of Excellence from the International Institute, the event's main sponsor.

Many volunteers also worked together to make the 25th Annual Czech and Slovak Festival in September a wonderful day in many ways. In planning the event, there was considerable discussion about the best venue for celebrating 25 years. In the end, returning the event to our Hall was an excellent decision. Recent events at the Hall include screening a film about Václav Havel's early years as president. The panelists' memories about living in Czechoslovakia in different generations touched the hearts of all audience members and helped to remind us how privileged we are to live in a democratic country.

The Domažlice Bagpipe Band concert and the dinner and dance that Sokol co-sponsored with the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society on October 24 were exciting events.

The C.S.P.S. Hall is a popular rental venue for celebrations, especially on weekends. When I became president of Sokol Minnesota in January 2014, I invested in a small notebook for taking notes on telephone requests for information and directing them to the appropriate person or committee. I recognize on the calendar for November and December the names of people who made a rental reservation in January and are now making the final plans for their birthday party, wedding reception, or anniversary celebration.

Our annual meeting takes place on November 21 at the Hall, beginning at 7 p.m. This is a chance for all members to hear updates about programs and activities and to vote for officers for the Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees, and delegates to upcoming conventions. A social hour and refreshments will follow the business meeting. This is a great time to get to know other Sokol members. I urge you to attend the meeting, vote, and have a chance to visit with other members. Please also plan to attend the pancake breakfast on November 23. The French toast recipe, that includes vanilla and nutmeg, is something that I look forward to for brunch. *Nazdar* and *Veselé Vánoce!!*

Honorary Consuls, plus Sokol Minnesota Committee Chairs (not seated on the BOD) Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko Honorary Czech Consul nominee: Marit Lee Kucera

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald ParkoHonorary Czech Consul nominee: Marit Lee Kucera
Past Honorary Czech Consuls: Josef Mestenhauser and Robert VanasekSunshine Committee: openGift Shop: Doreen McKenneyHousekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) JacobsonKitchen Coordinator: openWebsite: Craig Johnson. Joe LandsbergerVolunteer Coordinator: openTaneční Mládež and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise WessingerEvent Monitor: Ken WybergHall Contacts: Chuck Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Joe LandsbergerEvent Monitor: Ken WybergSlovo newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Christy Banks, Deb ZiskovskySlovosky

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 | Gift Shop: giftshop@sokolmn.org | Hall Rental: hallrental@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 | Social Media: socialmedia@sokolmn.org | Treasurer: treasurer@sokolmn.org | Board of Trustees: trustees@sokolmn.org | Webmaster: webmaster@sokolmn.org



Sokol Minnesota Participated in Western District Annual Meeting, September 27 in Cedar Rapids. (Front of beam L-R): Mary Cushing, American Sokol operations manager, Chicago; Mary Cahill; Marit Lee Kucera; Courtney Benson, head women's instructor. (Back of beam L-R): Joan Sedlacek; Norm Petrik; newly-elected Western District President Dan Rannels, Sokol Omaha; Jason Brozovich, head men's instructor.

Elected as 2015 officers of the Western District (WD) are Dan Rannels, WD president from Sokol Omaha; Allison Gerber, WD first vice president, immediate past WD president, and chair of the XXIV 2017 American Sokol Slet from Sokol Cedar Rapids; Barb Seefus, WD recording secretary from Sokol Omaha; Shelly Cairns, WD treasurer and WD financial secretary from Sokol Cedar Rapids; Deb Allison, WD education director from Sokol Cedar Rapids; Mary Cahill, WD men's director from Sokol Minnesota; Theresa Vernon, WD women's director from Sokol Crete; Joan Sedlacek, WD historian from Sokol Minnesota. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is proud to have Mary and Joan serve on the Western District Board.

Western District Update By Dan Rannells, Western District President

This is an exciting time for the Western District. At our annual meeting in Cedar Rapids on September 27, we toured two facilities that might serve as the locations for the 2017 American Sokol *Slet*, a national gymnastic competition. This will be the first time the Western District has hosted the American Sokol *Slet* since 1989 in Omaha. Dates will be announced soon.

We will need help from all of the district's units to make this event a success. There are a number of areas in which we will need your help: finding sponsors and donors, planning and executing social events, staffing the competitions, management of the overall *Slet*, and many more. As we start to form committees to organize this national event please consider volunteering to help.

Obviously, we also want to have as many gymnasts participate in this *Slet* as possible. Our goal is to make it a fun event that is affordable for everyone to participate in. Allison Gerber from Sokol Cedar Rapids is chair of the 2017 *Slet*. Thank you in advance for your help.

Dan Rannells <dan@sokolomaha.com>

Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

Renewals: Individual **\$50**; Couple **\$90**. Senior **\$40**; 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: <<u>www.sokolmn.org></u> 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

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 January 2015 issue is December 1, 2014.

Member Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Christy Banks, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor and production editor; Mary Kucera, photo essay designer; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Joyce Tesarek, photographer; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, mailing production; Joan Sedlacek, mailing; with Jean Draheim, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, and Jitka Sebek, advisors.

Photographs for this issue provided by Martina Gurgel, Kathy Jerde, Jyni Koschak, M. L. Kucera, Cheryl Nelson, Gary Novak, Don Pafko, Joyce Tesarek, and Deb Ziskovsky.

This November/December 2014 issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website after November 30.

Slovo accepts business card-size ads (3.5"x2"), paid in advance: onetime insertion \$25; three consecutive issues: \$65; ten consecutive issues: \$175. Ad reservation deadline is 6 weeks before publication (November15 for January issue), with ad and payment due by copy deadline (December 1 for January issue).

Slovo gift subscriptions and non-member renewals are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through December 2015.) 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/Renewals, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

Extra copies of Slovo are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts.

Please contact us with a **change of address**, for problems with *Slovo* subscriptions, if you missed an issue, or 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 have to pay 49¢ for each returned issue. Email us: <<u>slovo@sokolmn.org</u>>, phone us: 651-290-0542, or write us: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan, Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. *Thank you!*

25th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution Celebrated at Sokol Minnesota



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and the fall of communism in Czechoslovakia in 1989 at our Members Meeting on September 26 with the screening of the film *Václav Havel, Prague – Castle* and a panel discussion by 48ers, 68ers, and 89ers. (L-R) 89ers: Adriana Wenberg (Slovak) and Jitka Sebek (Czech). 68er: Ján Gadzo (Slovak). 48ers: Milan Sebek and Josef Mestenhauser (both Czech)

Each spoke about their experiences which ranged from arrest and imprisonment, confiscation of property, assumptions that you were a spy because you had an uncle in New Jersey, and a the christmas to huw bananas or or property for the children

family life being very closed and trusting no one, to the long lines at Christmas to buy bananas or oranges for the children.

Don Pafko, Honorary Slovak Consul, and Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Czech Consul nominee, introduced the panelists. Kucera organized the program; the film was shown free courtesy of the Czech Embassy, Washington, D.C.

Slovo hopes to publish articles in future issues with the inspiring, heart-rending, and thought-provoking stories and remarks made by the panelists.

The 2009 film, directed by Petr Jančárek, depicts the earliest days of Havel's presidency, including historic visits to the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C., and shortly thereafter to Moscow; plus interviews with his advisors and staff. Havel skyrocketed in a few short months from being a dissident playwright to become the head of a free, democratic nation.

Joan Sedlacek shared her Velvet Revolution scrapbook from 1989 of articles from newspapers and magazines. The sweatshirt has the logo from *Občanské Fórum*, Civil Forum, which unified the anti-authoritarian dissident groups in 1989. *Občanské Fórum* was founded by Václav Klaus, who later became the second president of the Czech Republic (2003 -2013), after Václav Havel.



Minnesota Consular Corps September Luncheon



By Don Pafko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic

The monthly luncheon meeting of the Minnesota Consular Corps was held Wednesday, September 17, at the Minneapolis Club. The guest speaker was Kathleen Motzenbecker, Executive Director of the Minnesota Trade Office, and a strong supporter of the Minnesota Consular Corps.

Ms. Motzenbecker is a dynamic speaker and gave an update of the exciting and aggressive efforts of the Minnesota Trade Office to bring Minnesota to the world and the world to Minnesota. Honorary Consul Donald Pafko (R) and Honorary Consul nominee Marit Lee Kucera (L) attended this meeting and networked with Ms. Motzenbecker (Center).

NEWS and NOTES of INTEREST:

Daleko Arts Holiday Show To Emphasize New Prague's Cultural Heritage. In March 1962 the Prague Theater in New Prague, Minnesota, was showing the Elvis Presley film *Blue Hawaii*. 52 years later, a new wave swept in headed by theater professionals Ben Thietje and Amanda White, whose Daleko Arts theater company began offering live stage productions, among which have been Philip Barry's witty and urbane play *The Philadelphia Story* and Alan Menken and Howard Ashman's comedy/horror musical *Little Shop of Horrors*. Not really much of a sea change when you consider what the Czech word *daleko* means: "far away," which not only reflects New Prague's strong Bohemian roots and its spatial relation to the Twin Cities as a cultural hub, but also the ensemble's desire to step back and examine the world from a new point of view. Holiday shows on weekends, December 5 to 21, with tickets \$10 – \$20. For more information, go to .">http://dalekoarts.com/>.

SOKOL SINGERS Meet First and Third Tuesdays

The Sokol Minnesota Singers need more voices to carry on an important part of our Czech and Slovak culture: singing and remembering our folk songs. None of us are professional singers. We just like to sing and don't want to lose our heritage. You do not even 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. Everyone welcome. Come, join us! Your heart will rejoice. 651-290-0542 French toast, pancakes, fruit cup, sausage, juice, milk, and coffee. No reservations. Public welcome.

Baked goods for your Thanksgiving table.

Pre-order koláče: 952-941-0426

Pancake Breakfast, Bake Sale and Craft Sale

Sunday, November 23

9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

under 9. Family of four (two adults and two children) \$22.00

\$7.00 adult:

\$5.00 children

Exquisite handcrafts for gift giving.

Vendor table rental. 651-426-2826

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota • www.sokolmn.org C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102





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Large and Happy Crowd Celebrated 25th Czech and Slovak Festival at C.S.P.S. Hall



Saint Paul's West End was awhirl with color, music, and festivity on September 14, as the 25th Czech and Slovak Festival rocked the C.S.P.S. Hall and grounds. It was a beautiful day, with great ethnic food that mostly sold out and talented entertainment on two stages. The event was successful on

Al Imbrone and his daughter Diane Bell led the Presentation of the Flags

many levels. "We had a wonderful, happy crowd, with many who'd found us for the first time," event chair Joyce Tesarek

said. "Twenty people requested Sokol membership applications. Financially, the festival was amazing too, making \$8,510.48." There were more than 110 volunteers, including a number of new volunteers this year. According to Joyce, "the workers really enjoyed each other."

Joyce expressed warm thanks for her teams of volunteers. "Many put in hours that were really heroic, put their own creative touch to their areas, and just stepped in above and beyond what was asked," she said.

VOLUNTEERS: (Planning Committee and Area Leaders in Bold) Joyce Tesarek, general chair, with

Don Andrle, Pat Andrle, Nathan Arch with Avery, Judy Aubrecht, Tom Aubrecht, Christy Banks, Darlene Baker, Jim Baker, Dan Bednar, Mark Bigaouette, Ann Blumer-Lamont with Grace, Zuzana Bracknell, Lenka Bragg,



Tickets: (L-R) Terry Shima, Anna Overbo, and two of the Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Ambassadors 6 November-December 2014 Slovo

Deb Brown, Jason Brozovich, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, Jana Castillon with Katka, Russ Christensen, Cindy Coulter. Barb Douvier. Chuck Draheim. Jean **Draheim**. Shannon Duffy, Jake Eishen, Mario Espinosa, Olga Espinosa with Izabela, Darren Giese with Nicole and Natalie, Eva Giese, Martina Gurgel, Jean Hall, Arlene Hamernik, Ed Hamernik. Don Haselbauer. Katie Haselbauer. Scott Hinshaw, Jen Iverson, Robert (Jake) Jacobson, Ken Jandra, Anne Jans, Darla Kolb, **Jvni Koschak**, Bob Kostichka, Pam Kotval, Llovd Krocak, Marit Lee Kucera, Joe Landsberger, Ann Leland, John Liemandt, Sharon Liska, Sue Martin, Hana Matousek, Doreen McKenney, Doris McKenney, Doris Moravetz, Paul Narr, Cheryl Nelson, Denis Novak, Gary Novak, Anna Overbo, Don Pafko, Marketa Pavek, Karolína Peterson, Ross Peterson, Norm Petrik, Theresa Pojar, Romana Pulkrabek with Sylvia, Ryan Pulkrabek, Mike Rasmussen, Pavlina Rasmussen, Rad Rasmussen, Marketa **Resong, Gina Roers-Liemandt**, Dáša Rosenthal, Jitka Sebek with Sally, Joan Sedlacek, Terry Shima, Steve Shimer, Victoria Soukup, Dave Stepan, Gale Thomsen, Lizzie Trnka, Rhonie Waldron with Alisia and Caylie, Dan Washick, Adriana Wenberg with Sofia, Jeff Wenberg, Michaela Wentz with Elizabeth, Chuck Wessinger, Louise Wessinger,

Cinnamon Whaley, Rosemary Whaley-Baisden, Alena Youngberg, Arnie Ziskovsky, Deb Ziskovsky

ENTERTAINMENT Outdoor Stage: David Stepan, emcee Accordionist: Al Kugler Flag Ceremony: Chuck Draheim, organizer: Al Imbrone, Diane Bell, Tom Aubrecht, Christina Raduen, Louise Wessinger, Heather Vikla, Jake Jacobson, Jyni Koshak, Dawn Bulera, Joan Sedlacek. Siri Schroeder

Speakers: Czech and Slovak Sokol President Judy Aubrecht, Slovak Honorary Consul Donald

Pafko, Czech Honorary Consul Nominee Marit Lee Kucera National Anthem Soloist: Corbin Jerde, Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota

Czech and **Slovak Singers** led the singing of the Czech and Slovak national anthems: Don Haselbauer, director. Singers: Jim Chlebecek, Libby Imbrone, Ann Jandra, Ken Jandra. Bob Kostichka. Val Kuisle, Norm Petrik, Richard Sargent,

Deb Ziskovsky



Arnie Ziskovsky, Czech Honorary Consul Nominee Marit Lee Kucera and Honorary Slovak Consul Don Pakfo greeted Festival visitors





Silent Auction had a steady stream of bidders, raising over \$2,600



Sweet Shoppe: Cindy Coulter (L) sold kolačé and perníčky



Czech and Slovak Culture Center Booth with Josef Mestenhauser (book: *Shifting Landscapes in Central Europe*) and Renata Ticha



Sokol Minnesota Taneční Mládež



Children enjoyed a variety of games



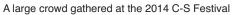
Sokol Singers led by Don Hasselbauer on accordion

(R) Jake Jacobson worked the Bar, which featured Staropromen Beer



November-December 2014 Slovo 7







Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe (Dudy) Band





Domácí Dancers (left and above)



Sokol Minnesota Teen Folk Dancers



Czech and Slovak food was served from the kitchen: (L-R) Alena Youngberg, Barb Dovier, Eva Giese



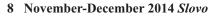
Accordionist: Frank Shima



Lake String Quartet: Czech classical music



Rosemary Whaley-Baisden and Arlene Hamernik sold out of Gelato





Denis Novak, Stage Manager



Membership booth: Tom and Judy Aubrecht



Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, Louise Wessinger, director

Sokol Minnesota Taneční Mládež and Teens: Louise Wessinger, director. Dancers: Faith Atcheson, Anna and Izzy Bracknell, Adela and Petra Bragg, Isabel Espinosa, Ellen Ferry, Kristina Gurgel, Lenka and Anna Hester, Seanna and Keely Kluzak, Chloe and Marius Morse, Sylvia Pulkrabek, Sally Sebek, Brittany and Michelle Stepan, Elisa, Everett and Eva Swartz, Michaela and Elizabeth Wentz, Mary, Bridget, and Greta Yanta

Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger, program director. Dancers: Don and Pat Andrle, Tom and Judy Aubrecht, Diane Bell and Scott Hinshaw, Dawn Bulera and Chuck Draheim, Jason Brozovich and Megan Cahill, Don and Katie Haselbauer, Robert Jacobson and Jyni Koschak, Jan Knudtson and Al Kugler, Emma Martin and James Metcalf, Pam Langworthy and Richard Sargent, Dave and Sue Martin, Teresa Pojar and John Topic, David Stepan and Louise Wessinger

Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers: Don Pafko, director. Dancers: Lynn Barnes, Krissy Chepp, Amanda

Chmiel, Lara Ciganko, Paul Knuth, Sylvia Magana, Brenda Maybery, David Schader, Baska Schaderova



Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers, Don Pafko, director

Miss Czech and Slovak Minnesota Corbin Jerde visited Jitka, Sokol's girl puppet, in the balcony

Saint Paul South Bohemian Bagpipe Band: Frank Trnka, director, Sue Martin, Dave Martin, Dawn Bulera, John Topic

Puppet Show: Perníková Chaloupka (Hansel and Gretel): Lenka Bragg, instructor, and the Česká a slovenká škola/Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities

Slovak Musical Instruments: David Milne, traditional flutes from Podpolanie, Central Slovakia: *fujara* (bass overtone flute), *koncovka* (overtone flute), *pistalka* shepherd's whistle)

Domácí Czech Folk Dancers: Arnie and Deb Ziskovsky, directors. Dancers: Izak and Joey Jirik, Tatum Kubes, Olivia and Sylvia Lemke, Kailey and Korey Mach, Anna Novak, Christina, Connor and Cyndi Raduenz, Victoria Soukup, Sarah Stresnak, Lizzie Trnka

Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Ambassadors: Christina Raduenz, Victoria Soukup, Lizzie Trnka

SlovCzech Band: Petr Bachan, director, Jozo Klobusnik, Lubor Manolov, Emily Judge Becker

Koláče Eating Contest (eat one *koláč* and whistle): The contest was over in a flash; before we could even get their names, the winners took their winnings (food tickets) and made a beeline to buy more goodies at the Sweet Shoppe.

Entertainment Indoor Stage: Denis Novak, stage manager.

Accordionist: Frank Shima

Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Organization: Anne Jans and Ashley Zimanske, directors,

Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Corbin Jerde, Princess Heather Vikla, Miss Congeniality Melissa Bastyr

The Lake String Quartet celebrated the heritage of Czech music with works by Josef Suk and Antonín Dvořák. Nanette Scott Goldman, director (violin), Carol Margolis (violin), Ingrid Koller (viola), Daryl Carlson (cello), quartet founder. Sponsor: Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota

Author Jarda Cervenka: selections from *Celebrated Navigation*. Sponsor: Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures Book Club



David Milne demonstrated Slovak instruments

EDUCATIONAL/ INFORMATIONAL BOOTHS:



Czech and Slovak Culture Center:

Russ Christensen, Bea Fleming, Josef Mestenhauser, Cheryl Nelson, Renata Ticha, Gwen Willems

Český Teriér: Katherine Eckstom with Galenka Kroje exhibit:

Anne Smisek-Jans

Western Fraternal Life Association (WFLA): Six lucky children won \$25 Best Buy gift certificates, but they all dashed off before we could record their names. VENDOR BOOTHS:

Czech Heritage Club -

European Christmas Event

Katherine Eckstrom with Galenka, her prize winning Český Teriér

her prize winning Ceský Terier (Deb and Arnie Ziskovski), CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International, Jean Draheim Jewelry, Sun Designs (Dawn Bulera), Back to Wellness Chiropractic



Anne Smisek Jans showed a kroj vest to Mark Bigaouette

A special Sokol Thank You to Anne Smisek Jans, who organized and set-up the beautiful display of authentic Bohemian, Slovak, and Moravian *kroje* (folk dress) in our first-floor classroom. Louise Wessinger helped Anne with setup. Ashley Zimanske and Mark Bigaouette helped Anne answer questions about the *kroje* and spoke with guests, many of whom were visiting C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall for the first time.

SILENT AUCTION: Special Thank You to Gina Roers-Liemandt, Silent Auction chair, and all the donors to the silent auction! Sokol raised more than \$2,600, all of which goes toward maintaining and preserving our historic C.S.P.S. Hall, on the National Registry of Historic Buildings since 1977.

Donors: Judy Aubrecht, Judith Benton, Mark Bigaouette, Bohemia Kennels USA, Katherine Eckstrom, Bonfe's Auto, Megan Cahill, Chris & Rob's Chicago Taste Authority, Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, DeGidio's, Domaci Czech Folk Dancers and Czech Heritage Club, Everest on Grand, Hotel 340, Jennifer Iverson, Jamazing MN -**10** November-December 2014 *Slovo*



SlovCzech Band played favorite Czech music

Adam Sery, Karma Boutique, Jackie Krammer, Marit Lee Kucera, La Petit Fleur Floral Design, The Liquor Vault, Mary Kay Consultant Mary Kay Tessman, Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op, Moscow on the Hill, Karolina Peterson, Lynn Peterson, ProActive Chiropractic and Massage, Gina Roers-Liemandt, Jan Roers, Run N Fun, Jitka Sebek, Joan Sedlacek, Nancy Siewert, Shops on Main - New Prague, Joyce Tesarek, Tom Reid's Hockey City Pub, Tupperwear Consultant Robin Nordhues, The Wellness Center, Adriana and Jeff Wenberg, Chuck and Louise Wessinger, Whole Life Counseling, Jason Zastera

ADVERTISERS in the Commemorative Program Booklet: Lipa Dancers (Don Pafko, director), Czech Tours (Hana Matousek), Jean Draheim Jewelry, CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International, Saint Paul Czech & Slovak Folk Dancers (Louise Wessinger, program director), Minnehaha Animal Hospital/PetDoctors (Joyce Tesarek), Cossettta (Ray Vanyo), Domácí Folk Dancers (Deb and Arnie Ziskovsky), Draheim Carpentry, Inc (Charles Draheim), Czech & Slovak Heritage Tours (Mark Bigaouette), Andrej's European Pastry (Ján and Jean Gadzo), SlovCzech, W.A. Frost and Company, Hotel 340, Saint Paul Athletic Club, University Club of Saint Paul, Western Fraternal Life Association, Czech and Slovak Culture Center of Minnesota, Shifting Landscapes in Central Europe (Dr. Josef Mestenhauser), MetroTech (Cheryl and Mike Theuninck), Fitness and Gymnastics Programming at Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota events

This article was compiled with help from Jvni Koschak, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, and all the Team Leaders. Pictures by Martina Gurgel, Kathy Jerde, Jvni Koschak. M. L. Kucera, Chervl Nelson, Gary Novak, Joyce Tesarek, Deb Ziskovski.



Information Table: Ron and Pat Andrle



American Sokol Celebrates its 150 Anniversary Starting in February

The celebration on February 14, 2015, in St. Louis kicks off Sokol's 150th anniversary. February 14 was the actual date of the first Sokol meeting in St. Louis in 1865. There will be a national gala celebration later in the fall of 2015. Each unit is urged to plan a Sesquicentennial Celebration. Minnesota has plans in the works, with a special program at our February meeting. Look for details in the January issue.



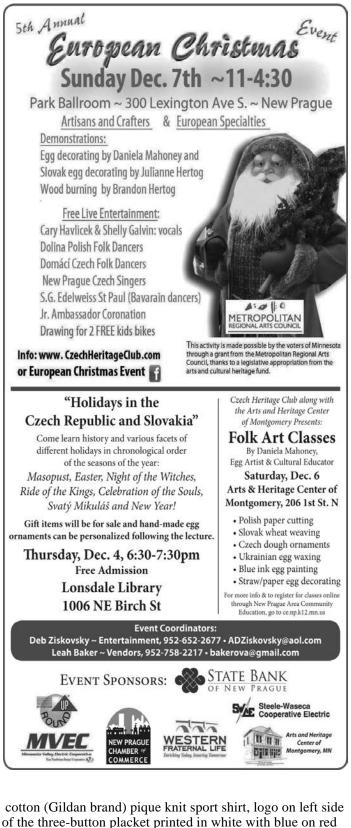
In conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Sokol, there are commemorative shirts, pins, and badges. We need to order as a Sokol Unit. These prices do not include shipping.

(Unfortunately, there will be no returns or exchanges.) Anyone interested in purchasing should

contact Mary Cahill: <fitness@sokolmn.org>

Cloisonné Pin and Fabric Patches: 1.5" Round Logo Lapel Pin...\$6 2.5" Circle Patch...\$6 3.5"x1.5" Rectangle Patch...\$6

Shirts: These shirt prices include the Sokol logo. **Polo shirt:** with collar and short sleeves, Red or Navy, all



shirts and white with red on blue shirts. Men XS-XL....\$18 Men 2XL-3XL....\$20 Ladies S-XL....\$18 Ladies 2XL....\$20 **T-shirts:** Red or Navy, (Gildan brand) 50-50 cotton/polyester, large logo printed across chest. Unisex S-XL....\$10 Unisex 2XL-5XL...\$12 Child's XS-L....\$10 November/December 2014 Slovo 11 Celebrated Navigation by Jarda Cervenka Saint Paul: Whistling Shade Press, 2014, 250 pp. Available in bookstores

Experience the World with a Friend By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

Czech-American author Jarda Cervenka invites us to be his travel companions through charming, humorous, sensual, absorbing, scary, and triumphant tales based on real events set in locales around the world. We join two young Americans falling in love in Kenya, Eskimos hunting in Hudson Bay, and a homeless man floating on the Vltava River during the 300-year flood.

The author and his publisher selected the stories in *Celebrated Navigation* from three of Cervenka's books of collected stories (*Mal D'Afrique*, *Revenge of Underwater Man*, and *Fausto's Afternoon*), with new additions.

The author's love of challenging travel, storytelling, meaningful friendships, and Africa, the setting of many of his yarns, is clear in "The Four Thorns of Kilimanjaro," one of his favorites. "I recognized Africa by smell and started to feel the magic which is so difficult to describe, the infatuation which is untreatable and chronic," Cervenka writes. "Cracks of the packed laterite earth oozed the smell of roasted chestnuts, flowering bushes added their perfumes to the odors of early breakfasting by street people, and outdoor kitchens mixed in their indescribable succulent whiffs. I would have known where I was blindfolded." As the narrator climbs Kilimanjaro with the strong and captivating Italian nurse, Ariana Bella, she tells him four anecdotes of injuries from the deadly acacia thorn.

In "Pearls of Lady Seraphim," Cervenka masterfully draws an amazingly full portrait of a woman in three-and-a-half pages of a short, short story. When the narrator meets her in a bookstore in Prague, she is 91 years old, has outlived two husbands and many acquaintances, survived torture by the communists in Ruzyně Prison, and now chats in German, French, and English with tourists in the store where she considers the books her foster children.

"Kamikaze Dream of the Butterfly Collector" is a new tale of a young daydreaming Japanese boy named

Tetsuo. Swept up in nationalism, he decides, "Yeah, I will become Kamikaze, The Divine Wind! I'll learn to fly Zero fighter planes in a squadron of young heroes ... we will sacrifice everything for the homeland.... as the Divine Wind I shall dive at the enemy battleship loaded with explosives in a bansai charge, following the Bushido code of the samurai, causing destruction. Victory!" He imagines his family will be congratulated for his heroic deed, school mates will be proud they knew him, teachers will be amazed, and the girl he has a crush on will cry. However, when he tells his father he wants to become a Kamikaze, the Divine Wind, the elder man thinks it over and decides the boy will become a dentist. The war ends, Japan thrives, and Tetsuo, rich from straightening incisors and canines, can now stand with arms outstretched, bellowing as his sailboat speeds across the water, fantasizing once again that he is Kamikaze, the true Wind Divine.

Gwen is coordinator of the Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak book discussion group. For more information, go to <www.cs-center.org> or contact <gwen@cs-center.org>.

Autumn's Changes By Vanda Kašová, columnist from Prague

Tuesday, September 30. No idea. No inspiration. For the first time in more than a year, I do not know what to tell you about. This is not because nothing is going on in Prague: autumn has come, elections are next week, two frightening wars wage only a few hours flight away from us. But this time I'm not thinking about any of this. I will explain why. And I hope you will forgive me that this is going to be personal. However, I believe all of you have at times experienced similar situations.

Several months ago I felt blue. I felt that my life was not going anywhere. There seemed to be no way to continue working at my job that had started to irritate me a bit. My boyfriend wasn't ready to get married but did not want me to leave the country for a while to study or to travel or to do anything that would satisfy my longing for change and adventure. I felt stuck. This was in May, only four months ago.

Well, my boyfriend always says that when you feel your life is going nowhere, it is time to relax, think, and decide what you really want to do because a new opportunity is coming, and you need to be ready. One thing I love about him is that attitude and his everlasting optimism. Of course, he was right.

It is Tuesday, the end of September. I am still at home. Today my work begins at 3 p.m. A few weeks ago, my boss asked if I was interested in trying something new and offered me a job I have always dreamed about. To be an anchor. I only have a few shifts as an anchor each month. But I am so happy to, at least, get the chance. Even though I am leaving the job anyway. I have to. In January. I have more important things to do even than being an anchor. We are going to be parents. Even now it sounds unbelievable. My boyfriend and our families support me so much. Compared to that, that we are getting married on Saturday seems much less important.

Any of those things would have been enough in May to change my life completely. They have come all at one time now. I believe it is for a reason. Now, when I know that this is exactly what I want, I hope I am ready.

P.S. And I promise the next article will be about Prague and Czech republic again. Take care.

Vanda was married on Saturday, October 4. Her friends here at Sokol Minnesota and Slovo wish her and her family many years of happiness.



Membership Updates

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

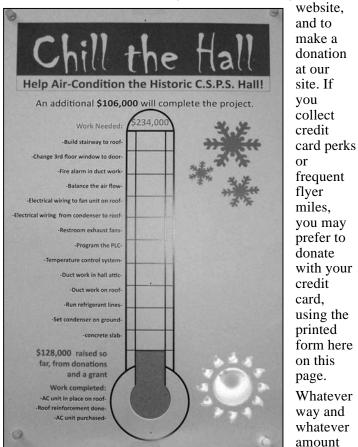
At the September 18 Board of Directors meeting, one couple and two individuals were accepted as members in Sokol Minnesota. Lewis and Karolina Peterson, from Vadnais Heights, have three young children, and the family expressed interest in language and festivals. Clarence Bina, from Bismarck, North Dakota, has two adult children and expressed interest in language, festivals, film, and literature. Sonya Calef is from New Hope.

Our next membership meeting is our annual meeting with election of officers for 2015, Friday, November 21, 7 p.m.

Give to The Max Day: November 13 **By Joyce Tesarek**

Thursday, November 13 is the annual Give to the Max Day. That is the day that everyone is encouraged to go to <www.GiveMN.org> and donate to his or her favorite nonprofits. Sokol Minnesota is a featured site and we would love to have you support the Hall with a taxdeductible donation, GiveMN charges a 4.9 percent fee on each transaction to help cover processing costs.

Another way to donate is to go to <SokolMn.org>, our



you can contribute; the full amount received goes to support the Hall and its activities. You can donate in honor of, or in memory of, a special person. Unless requested, all donations are acknowledged by name in the Slovo. Thank you for your generous support!

to C S P S Hall as we celebrate 🛛 🔌 🖋	
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 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.	Thank you!

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. Donations are listed under the following categories: under \$100; \$100-\$499; \$500-\$999; \$1000-\$4999; \$5000+, and undisclosed

General Donation: Under \$100: Sue Drtina, Jitka Sebek.

Legacy Fund:

Under \$100: Arlene Drabek in memory of Albert and Florence Drabek; Ralph and Mary Halbert in memory of Irene Seashore.

\$100 - \$499: Dan and Rosie Bodien in memory of Lydia and Ladd Loss; Al and Libby Imbrone; Penelope Zastrow in memory of Adelaide Aubrecht Adams. \$1000 - \$4999: Anonymous.

Gymnastics Program:

Under \$100: Marlene Hinshaw in honor of Charlotte Januschka.

Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers Donation Challenge:

Legacy Fund: \$100: partial donation: Pamela Langworthy, Richard Sargent, Louise Wessinger. \$200: Dave and Sue Martin.

In-Kind Donations for C-S Festival:

Amy's Classic Confections, Gelato discount; Hana Matousek, Marketa Resong, ingredients for baked goods sold; Doreen McKenney, C-S Festival children's prizes; Jitka Sebek, perníky.

No Time for Reckoning

By Dr. Josef A. Mestenhauser

Distinguished International Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota Department of Educational Policy and Administration, Comparative and International Development Education Honorary Consul of the Czech

Republic (1999-2008) Every visitor to the Czech and

Slovak Republics whom I have met reports with enthusiasm the progress that these countries have made since the Velvet Revolution began 25 years ago. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota remembered this anniversary recently, giving me the opportunity to write this article about some overlooked and unresolved aspects of these many changes. Despite the exceptional improvements in living standards and enjoyment of freedom and democracy, the memory of the communist past lingers and negatively affects the political and social life of the country. Czechs have not confronted the questions of how best to forgive, punish, restore, and re-integrate both the victims of the regime as well as the perpetrators of atrocities, some of whom were victims themselves.

My article is based on the findings, later published in book form, of a 2009 conference sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes focusing on the period from 1948 – 1971. Papers presented at the conference examined events in all of the Central European countries subjected to Soviet totalitarianism, including Slovakia, Poland, Slovenia, East Germany, Bulgaria, and Finland. You may recall that Czech communists campaigned aggressively to abolish the Institute because, while its findings are well-researched and presented objectively, it repeatedly exposes the scope of repression during the years of Soviet rule. More revelations continue to emerge as historians and other investigators study the extensive archives from the various police and court records as well as testimonials.

I have written a great deal about these crimes of the regime, and thought that enough was now known of what had happened. The Institute's compendium convinced me that this is not so: the scope was much greater than I had assumed, the atrocities and tortures much worse, and the sentences imposed much harsher. I hope my readers are not tired of hearing about the dark days of our common history when Czechs killed, tortured, and debased other Czechs. Please do not put this article down before reading it, because these stories still live and many questions still need answers. The Communist party is legal today, despite being declared by law to have been a criminal regime; it has not accepted any responsibility for past wrongdoing, and insists it is proud of its achievements. Party members continue to meet secretly with Russia, and they increasingly reveal a desire to regain power by quietly forming a mass base of supporters. Very, very few were tried and sentenced for their crimes against humanity, partly because they destroyed incriminating documents and partly because firsthand testimony from witnesses was not available. Some of the higher-level perpetrators are reported to now live in quiet luxury.

President Havel was under pressure to abolish the Communist party and confiscate its large holdings. Unfortunately, I think, he decided against doing so, ironically because it would violate the sprit of democracy the country was seeking to readopt. At the time, many were convinced that the party would collapse once its criminal past was revealed. However, human memory tends to be selective, and it did not. The Communist party should have been outlawed, as was done in other countries, where its more positive ideas strengthened the newly-created social democratic parties, which were able to integrate the former communist rank and file.

My own studies of communism convinced me that communist ideology was so deeply ingrained in the minds of the hardliners that they continue to seek domination and totalitarian rule. As long as there are still communist countries, the Czech hardliners receive a great deal of support for their views and intended actions. Most Western social scientists tend to dismiss ideologies as rationalizations for more personal interests. The history of communism, like the fanaticism seen currently in the Middle East, should be a phenomenon that needs serious consideration.

So what did the conference find? First, it concluded that there were strong similarities among the ways in which communist Central European countries conducted surveillance, conducted interrogations, handed down sentences, and in other ways harassed people. As could be expected, the practices of imprisonments and sentences to forced labor camps duplicated those in the USSR. It also found that many criminal charges in Czechoslovakia were prepared long before the communist coup in February 1948 and had nothing to do with the activities of the victims. The communist party headquarters generally determined sentences in advance. In some cases, pencil-scribbled notes on sentences read "return not necessary," meaning that prison guards were free to kill these victims and make them simply disappear from the records. Communist "justice" was based on the principle of collective guilt. Most trials were not just of an individual but also of entire groups consisting of family and friends held responsible for a single "crime." All sentences included punishments beyond prison sentences and deprivation of civil rights; the courts imposed large financial fines and confiscated properties and benefits such as retirement. These consequences were designed to strengthen public fear of opposing the communist government. Such group retribution also caused a complete breakdown of the family because spouses of victims (labeled "enemies of the people"), if not also convicted, were left with no income, no employment, and no place to live. Some were sent to forced labor camps.

When we count the number of those arrested and tried during this period, the number is as large as the population of Saint Paul, some 300,000. Add to this an estimate of the number of spouses and children also affected, and the number of victims approaches one million out of a total population of 15 million.

While the conference accurately described and documented the conditions of the Stalinist period, it also revealed exceptional heroism demonstrated by many who chose to oppose the regime, despite knowing what the consequences might be for them and also for their families. These were consciously-made decisions by people who did not belong to any underground organization but who acted spontaneously.

Many of the imprisoned were eventually released during the Alexander Dubček era, when the stories of communist atrocities became widely known. However, the sentences remained in force and re-imprisonment was threatened if the terms of probation were "violated." After World War II,



Czech and Slovak prisoners from the Nazi concentration camps had returned to welcome and support. In sharp contrast, in the early 70s those released were constantly monitored, suspected of subversive activities, shunned because they were dangerous to associate with, and even sent to forced labor camps. Their property and homes were sold at bargain prices to powerful communist officials.

I end this article not with conclusions but instead with a number of questions. How can the many direct and indirect victims of the communist regime, who were affected by its barbarism and who lost property and liberty, come to terms with this past? Is unilateral forgiveness the answer, especially in the face of communist refusal to acknowledge its monumental wrongs? Is it too late to abolish the party? Must we wait until all actors and victims die before healing and political progress are possible? You might have other questions and possibly also answers. I believe that the problems of the country's dysfunctional political system and corruption are due to its allowing the communist party to exist and to treat it as an legitimate democratic opposition party. I only regret that I used to think that the Czechoslovakian people had willingly supported the regime. The conference I described taught me otherwise, and I have changed my views about the extent of opposition and sabotage that ordinary people had resorted to. There were far more heroes than we know about.

For more information about the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes, go to its website: www.ustrcr.cz/en

Film Series Commemorates the 25th Anniversary of the Velvet Revolution

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution and end of communism in Czechoslovakia in November 1989, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C., has made available a series of films in a program entitled

The Play's the Thing: Václav Havel, Art and Politics

curated by Margaret Parsons, head of the film program at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. The series focuses on Václav Havel, the dissident and imprisoned dramatist who became a world-renowned statesman as the first president of the Czech Republic. This program is based on the places and people that Havel knew, from the influential Theatre on the Balustrade, where his theatrical career began, to his friendships with filmmakers of the Czech New Wave, and to his political ascendancy in Prague.

The films will be shown free to the public, courtesy of the Czech Embassy, which has non-commercial rights to the films.

Nine films have screenings in November at **Trylon Microcinema**, 3258 Minnehaha Avenue South, Minneapolis. <trylon.org> 612-424-5468.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Czech and Slovak Culture Center are proud to partner with Trylon Microcinema to support the screenings of these films. Both Sokol and CSCC will have information tables before each screening.

Please call 651-290-0542 to volunteer to staff the Sokol Minnesota table.

November 3-4 (7 p.m. and 9 p.m.): *The Uninvited Guest (Nezvaný host)* Vlastimil Venclík, 1969, Czech with subtitles, 22 minutes, and *Every Young Man (Každý mladý muž)* Pavel Juráček, 1966, Czech with subtitles, 83 minutes.

November 10-11 (7 p.m. and 9 p.m.): *The Mist (Mlha)* Radúz Činčera, 1966, Czech with subtitles, 28 minutes, and A Report on Party and Guests (O slavnosti a hostech) Jan Němec, 1968, Czech with subtitles, 71 minutes.

November 17-18 (7 p.m. and 9 p.m.): *The Heart above the Castle* (*Srdce nad Hradem*) Jan Němec, 2007, Czech with subtitles, 48 minutes, and *Leaving* (*Odcházení*) Václav Havel, 2011, Czech with subtitles, 94 minutes.

November 24-25 (7 p.m.): three films: *Joseph Kilian aka A Person to Be Supported* (*Postava k podpírání*) Pavel Juráček, 1963, Czech with subtitles, 38 minutes; *Who Is Václav Havel...*(*Kdo je Václav Havel...*) Helena Matiášová, 1977, Czech with subtitles, 11 minutes; and *And the Beggar's Opera Again (A znovu Žebrácká opera*) Olga Sommerová, 1996, Czech with subtitles, 60 minutes.

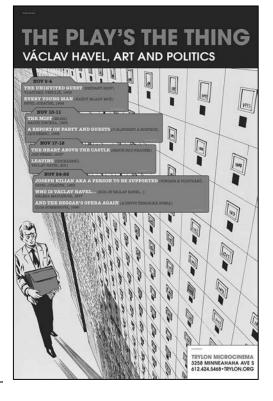
Czech and Slovak Culture Center Lecture 2014-2015

October 28, 7 p.m. *The Birth of Czechoslovakia*. City Bella, 6600 Lyndale Avenue South, Richfield.

November 16, 1:30 p.m. 25 Years of Democracy: Central and Eastern Europe Since The Fall of The Wall.

Honorary Consuls from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania, and a representative from Poland. C.S.P.S. Hall. CSCC annual meeting precedes the lecture at 1 p.m.

January 31, 2015, 10 a.m. *Mozart in Prague*. Daniel E. Freeman, Ph.D.



Cosponsored by Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures. C.S.P.S. Hall.

February 21, 2015, 10 a.m. *Czech-Slovak History and Language*. Professor Dieter Prow, Carleton College. City Bella, 6600 Lyndale Avenue South, Richfield.

ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER! SOKOL Minnesota 2014 EVENTS

Czech Roast Pork Dinner Sunday, November 2, 12:30 p.m. Prepaid Reservations by October 30 \$16 adult • 651-290-0542

Pancake Breakfast with Bake/Craft Sales November 23, Sunday, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Please dowate baked goods! Pre-order koláče (\$10 per dozen): 952-941-0426 Reserve a craft table: events@sokolmn.org

<u>Annual Meeting:</u> November 21, 7 p.m. Election of Board of Directors

<u>Sokol Children's Holiday Party</u> December 5, Friday, 7 p.m.

Sokol Members' Party: meal and entertainment January 4, Sunday, 3 p.m. \$10 • Reserve by December 29: 651-290-0542

Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org Sokol Minnesota on Facebook: www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota



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Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota SLOVO Nov/Dec 2014

Meet Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's 2014-2015 Gymnastic Instructors

A Staff Unparalleled in Enthusiasm, Dedication, and Skill who offer Continuity in Instruction

Girls' program: (below L-R) Courtney Benson (head women's instructor), Erica Meyers, Siri Schroeder, Alice O'Brien. Missing: Summer Haag. (Right) Men's head instructor: Jason Brozovich. Board of Instructors: Mary Cahill, women's physical director; Megan Cahill, men's physical director.



