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

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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!*
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

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

April 2016 Slovo 3

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.
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 Pařko, 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 Zajiček, 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.


Presenting greetings were Sharon Valasek, Honorary Consul, Czech Republic in Kansas City; Don Pařko, 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, fanfrooch, and hrábe (Czech rhythmic folk instruments), and John Topic, vocals and hrábé.

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 Flaming, 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.

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

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 Vosejpka. Thank you!
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 Rosembaumová** 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](mailto:2016fireflies@gmail.com)

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

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.

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>.

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Vintage Czech Beads and Buttons

The Textile Center, a national center for fiber arts in Minneapolis, held a "Vintgage 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.
April 2016 Slovo 7

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 Tokes 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.

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.

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

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.
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.

April 2016 Slovo 9
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.
BOOK REVIEW: *Václav Havel’s Extraordinary Life*  
**By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.**

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.

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**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.
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

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