

Help Louise Wessinger Celebrate her 70th Birthday at the April 1 Šibřinky Dance By Judy Aubrecht

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota will hold a special celebration for Louise Wessinger's 70th birthday at the April 1 *Šibřinky* Dance. Everyone is invited to honor Louise, including Taneční Mládež alumni and parents, Czech and Slovak Culture Camp alumni, past and present members of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, all Sokol members, and Louise's family and many friends. Louise has been a vital contributor to Sokol Minnesota for decades, devoting endless hours to insuring that the Czech and Slovak heritage, which she holds so dear, will continue to be shared with others and also be seen as important in the community. We want to present Louise with 70 birthday cards to represent 70 years. Please send a birthday greeting for Louise to C.S.P.S. Hall at 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102. Let Louise know why she has been a special influence in your life.

Louise grew up in the Highland Park neighborhood of Saint Paul. Her parents were Henry (Hank) and Laura Jansen. Her sister, Linda Nicoli, lives in Coco Beach, Florida, with her husband Richard. Louise has been married to Chuck Wessinger for nearly 44 years. They have two sons, John and Nick Wessinger, and are blessed with three grandchildren. Louise graduated from Saint Joseph Academy in Saint Paul in 1965. She graduated with degrees in elementary education and sociology from the College (now University) of Saint Catherine in 1969; she worked as a teacher in elementary schools for many years. Having been a Sokol gymnast as a girl, fitness has always been important to Louise; she also had a business teaching aerobics and Pilates.

Louise's parents were very active at the C.S.P.S. Hall. They were dedicated to preserving the Hall for future generations. With her parent's encouragement, Louise grew up folk dancing, attending Kids Camp at the Sokol Camp in Pine City, learning to make ethnic crafts and foods, and attending parties, dances, and events at the Hall and in other Czech and Slovak communities.

...continued on page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

May Slovo Deadline
Sunday, April 1

Šibřinky Dance and Supper
Saturday, April 1, 4-10 p.m.
(See page 3)

Spring Pancake Breakfast with Bake and Craft Sales
Sunday, April 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sokol Senior Singers
Mondays, April 11 and 25,
10 a.m.

Škola Family Easter Celebration
Saturday, April 15
10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Board of Directors
Thursday, April 20, 7 p.m.

Battle of the Bands
Saturday, April 29
7:30-11 p.m. (See page 4)

Festival of Nations
May 4-7 (See page 6)

Dumpling Class
Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m.
(see page 6)



Louise Wessinger (center front) with *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční Teens* (ViSta Image photography 2015).

**Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota**

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

www.sokolmn.org

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes By Judy Aubrecht

Pozdrav bratři a sestry / Greetings Brothers and Sisters

After months of anticipation and planning, Jaroslav Švach, the Czech master dance instructor, arrived in February. The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, plus Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, invited him to teach Moravian dance steps and folk dances to their adult dancers, as well as to the *Taneční Mládež* children and *Taneční* Teens. The men were happy to learn a *verbuňk* dance, a "show off" dance that is performed at special events, such as weddings and wine harvest festivals. In addition, Jaroslav conducted several open sessions for community dancers, including an evening at the Tapestry Folk Dance Center in Minneapolis, where about 75 people joined in the instruction. He also taught dance classes in New Prague and Montgomery. Sokol Minnesota member Markéta Resong was Jaroslav's hostess. Markéta's family and Jaroslav live in the Břeclav district in southern Moravia. Ludmila Pálková, Markéta's mother, accompanied Jaroslav on the trip and was very pleased to spend time with her family here. She baked much-appreciated Moravian pastries that were served during the dance classes. (See pages 6-7 for article and pictures.)

Jaroslav completed a master's degree in folk dancing at the university in Brno, the capitol of Moravia. He teaches folk dancing to dancers of many ages, including his Old Stars group of senior dancers who have been folk dancing for many years. Jaroslav's specialty is teaching and judging the *verbuňk*, a dance that originated as a reaction to military recruitment; this dance became a UNESCO masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2007. When members of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers traveled to the Czech Republic in June 2012, one of the highlights of the of the trip was spending the weekend at the International Folklore Festival in the Moravian city of Strážnice. The festival included a *verbuňk* competition for individual boys and young men dressed in their finest *kroj*. The *verbuňk* dance started slowly and built up to a dramatic crescendo filled with fancy twirling, boot slapping, and kicking. At the end of the weekend, *verbuňk* champions were selected and performed at a grand evening show. Several of our Minnesota men dancers would do well at a *verbuňk* competition, especially after their recent intense instruction from Jaroslav Švach.

April is an exciting month at the C.S.P.S. Hall. The spring *Šibřinky* dance with supper takes place on April 1. It includes a tribute to Louise Wessinger to celebrate her 70th birthday.

The Spring Pancake Breakfast takes place on April 9, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The new Sokol Minnesota cookbook had an anticipated release date coinciding with the event. Unfortunately, like many collaborative activities, more time is needed to complete the project. We look forward to seeing the cookbook in the near future!

At C.S.P.S. Hall on April 29 at 7:30 p.m., a friendly competition called "The Battle of the Bands" features several local bands, which play folk rock, rhythm and blues, and Americana music. Line dancing, a sing-along, a silent auction, special foods, and desserts promise a lively evening. This is a unique and fun fundraiser for Sokol Minnesota. Don't miss it!

Recently several people mentioned that they have not been to the Festival of Nations for a number of years. This is the year to attend! This year's Festival theme is "Ceremonies and Rituals." The Czech and Slovak booth portrays the Moravian tradition of "Ride of the Kings." You won't want to miss it or the variety of other cultures and foods at the Festival of Nations, May 4 to 7 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. If you would like to participate in this multi-event festival and get a free entrance ticket, please think about volunteering to work a shift at the Czech and Slovak food booth or cultural booth. (See page 6 for more information.)
Nazdar!

**2017 Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Film Festival
April 13 to 29 Features One Czech and Slovak Film**

Saint Anthony Main Theatres, 125 South East Main Street, Minneapolis 55414

The Czech and Slovak film, *The Teacher*, has the Czech duo Jan Hřebejk and Petr Jarchovský (*Divided We Fall*) as the writers/directors of this Slovak-language dramedy.

Screenings are Sunday, April 23 at 11 a.m.; Tuesday, April 25 at 4:40 p.m.;
and Saturday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m.

The film examines the terrifying power wielded by the local Communist party leader, in her job as a schoolteacher in Bratislava during the 1980s. Humor combines with irony to expose this self-aggrandizing teacher as an unscrupulous villain.

Sponsors are Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic Marit Lee Kucera, and Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic Don Pafko.

... continued from page 1

Louise Wessinger's 70th Birthday

As an adult, it has been important to Louise to continue these traditions. She began dancing with the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers when she was 16 years old. Louise eventually became the director of this dance group. In 1990, she started the *Taneční Mládež* dance group for children, which eventually expanded to include teenagers. She has also been very active

with the Festival of Nations, organized by the International Institute of Minnesota, especially with the dance program. 2017 is the 20th year that Louise has been co-director of the Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp, which takes place at the Hall each summer. Camp activities include dancing, gymnastics, ethnic crafts, cooking, and games, Czech language lessons and singing, and special guests who share their knowledge about Czech and Slovak topics.

Louise has welcomed and shared her talents and skills with all of us at the Hall. Now, we get a chance to celebrate her 70th birthday at the April 1 *Šibřinky* Dance, of which she is the co-chairperson. There will be a birthday celebration after the children perform around 5 p.m. and another celebration after the adult dancers perform, around 8:15 p.m.

Come for supper, birthday celebrating, and dancing! Don't forget to send your birthday card for Louise's 70th!

Maruška and Miss Louise By Michaela Makarianová-Wentz

One of Louise Wessinger's favorite folk tales, which is read nearly every summer at the Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp, is the Czech and Slovak fairy tale called *Sol' nad zlato*, or *Salt is More Precious Than Gold*. This is a charming story of a king who is trying to select which of his daughters will succeed him. He goes about the decision in a very curious way. He simply poses this question to each of his three daughters, "Princess, how much do you love me?" The first one replies, "Father, I love you the way I love my most beautiful gowns." The second one replies, "I love you as much as I love all my precious jewels." The third and youngest daughter, Maruška, who is very wise and kind, replies, "My dearest father, you are as precious to me as salt." Well, this response, of course, makes the father very angry; he throws her out of the kingdom, and all kinds of trouble strike. You will have to read the whole story yourself to find out. Nevertheless, in the end, as is expected, the king comes to his senses and realizes that there is no life without salt; he welcomes his long-lost daughter back, and makes her the future queen. As a peace offering, she brings him a precious gift: a salt container that is bottomless. They start pouring the salt into table bowls, into farmers' bags, they pour and pour, and the bottom never appears. The amount of salt appears to be endless.

And do you know what?

We have someone among us who reminds us of that magic salt bowl. Yes, it is Miss Louise!

It has been a tremendous pleasure over the past years to get to know Miss Louise, and to quietly admire her amazing energy, her never-ending enthusiasm, and her boundless support of our children. She continues to work with them weekend after weekend, month after month, year after year. This is on her own time, without pay, and with very little public recognition for the sacrifices she has made for our dancers and also for the entire organization of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

Sokol Minnesota has been such a vibrant, important place for its members and their children, a place of welcome and understanding. Sokol Minnesota has provided those of us who are Czech/Slovak-born with a little piece of the old

country right here in the far-away land that we now call home. I cannot express just how much we owe Sokol Minnesota and, most specifically, Miss Louise for allowing us to carry on with our traditions, for always being so supportive of all our ideas and activities, and for simply being there for our children. There are not enough words to describe just how much we owe her for all that she has done and continues to do. And just like Maruška's salt bowl, Miss Louise never seems to tire. Speaking of birthdays, let us make her big birthday very special so she knows just how much she means to us and how grateful we are to her for everything.

Miss Louise, you are greatly loved! We wish you the best, today and always! Happy 70th birthday from all of us.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Presents

Sibřinky

CELEBRATION

April 1
Come for Supper! Stay for the Dance!

Supper \$7.00
4 - 6:30 p.m.
Pork cutlet (vepřový řízek), potato salad, pickled beets, and bread

Dance \$12.00/door
6 - 10 p.m.
Music by **Gordy Prochaska's "Little Fisherman Band"**
Polka Old Tyme Big Band

5 p.m. Performance by the Taneční Mládež and Teen Dancers	Cash Bar Czech Beer	Public Welcome	\$10.00 Advance Dance Admission by March 25 Mail to Louise 3704 Denmark Ave Eagan, MN 55123 651-452-6240 Checks to: Sokol MN
8 p.m. Performance by the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers	Hot Dogs, Desserts, and Snacks for Sale	Masked Ball, Costumes and Folk Dress Encouraged	

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 • www.sokolmn.org

First annual friendly competition

Be a part of Twin Cities history!

Battle of the Bands

Presented by Sokol Minnesota, CSCC, and Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities

- Folk rock
- Americana
- R & B

Saturday, April 29

7:30 p.m.

C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN

On Stage Featured Bands:

SlovCzech

Rocket Appliances

James Loney and Lolo's Ghost

Negotiating with an exciting fourth band! Stay tuned!

**Suggested
\$10 admission
donation**

*Proceeds go towards construction
of the C.S.P.S. Hall fire escape*

- Something for every one
- Line dancing • Silent auction
- Door prizes • Beer trivia
- Sing-a-long • Cash bar
- Food and Desserts
for sale

The memorial service for **Kent Hinshaw**, a 20-year Sokol member, was held at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Saturday, March 25.

Kent not only spent 42 years teaching science at Saint Paul schools, but was also a Sokol Singer and a loyal volunteer with many Sokol Minnesota events.

Wife Marlene, son Scott, and daughter Gail Wright thank you for your kind support and generous donations.

Festival of Nations 2017 By Joyce Tesarek

The 2017 Festival of Nations comes to the Saint Paul RiverCentre on May 4-7. The festival features food, music and dance, shopping, and exhibits representing countries from around the world. See lively dance performances by adult and children folk dancers, sample delicious ethnic dishes in the Cafés, and visit the Culture Exhibit Booths.

To represent this year's Festival theme of *Ceremonies and Rituals*, the Czech and Slovak Culture Booth features a must-see life-sized costumed horse and rider representing *The Ride of the Kings*.

Volunteers are needed to help in our Café and our Culture booth. If you volunteer with us at the Festival of Nations, you get a free admission ticket! To volunteer for a shift in the Culture Booth call the Hall at 612-290-0542. For the Café, you can sign up on our website: www.Sokolmn.org or call Joyce at 612-822-6147.

20th Annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp By Louise Wessinger

The 20th annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp takes place at the C.S.P.S. Hall from June 12 to 16, from 8:50 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our camp theme is "Adventures in History: The Czech and Slovak Lands." The camp is for children ages of seven to fourteen years old. Older teens are invited to be junior leaders, which is a great way to get fun volunteer hours. Parents, grandparents, or family friends often volunteer at the camp, which allows the camper to attend at a reduced rate. The camp includes ethnic crafts, food, singing, games, folk dancing, language, and gymnastics classes.

Registration ends on June 1, so please register now. Registration materials are available at the Sokol Minnesota website, under Classes, click on Culture Camp 2017. Please contact Louis Wessinger with any questions at 651-452-6240. See you at camp!

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

By Elizabeth Kaliska, Corresponding Secretary

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

General Fund: Over \$500:

Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities

In Memory of Kent Hinshaw: under \$99:

Ken and Sharon Wyberg

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

In honor of Louise Wessinger for her work with children and teens, under \$99: **Kathleen Ferry**

Gymnastic Classes: In Memory of Kent Hinshaw:

under \$99: **Don and Pat Andrie, Tom and Judy Aubrecht, Elsie Roepke**

General Fund: \$607

Legacy Fund: \$150

Gymnastics Classes: \$100

Total: \$857



Flavors of Slovakia Dinner on March 5 featured a performance by Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers, Don Pafko, director (above). Denis Novak, Sokol Minnesota Vice President, presented Stephanie Koblas-Rugg, the door prize winner, with two tickets to *Šibřinky* on April 1 (below).

See more pictures and the article on this highly-praised dinner in the May issue of *Slovo*. Read the list of all the wonderful volunteers who helped to make the dinner a huge success.



C.S.P.S. LEGACY FUND

We ask for your support for renovations to C.S.P.S. Hall as we celebrate the Hall's 130th year in 2017.

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 Minnesota**
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!

FESTIVAL of NATIONS®

**The 2017 Festival of Nations
Saint Paul RiverCentre,
downtown Saint Paul
Four Great Days, May 4 to 7**

This year's festival theme is *Ceremonies and Rituals*.

The festival features dancing, exhibits,
food, music, and shopping
representing countries from around the world.

Come see lively dance performances
by our adult, children, and teen folk dancers,
sample delicious ethnic dishes in the Café,
and visit the Culture Exhibit Booth
with it's life-sized decorated horse and rider
representing *The Ride of the Kings*.

**Volunteers are needed
in the Café and Culture Exhibit Booths.**
If you Volunteer with us at the Festival of Nations,
you will get a free admission ticket!

To volunteer for a shift in the café or exhibit,
you can sign up on our website
www.sokolmn.org
or call general chair Joyce at 612-822-6147
For hours and tickets: www.festivalofnations.com



Café
Ethnic Foods



Dance
Performances



Culture
Exhibit Booth

GUEST SPOTLIGHT: Jaroslav Švach By Louise Wessinger

From February 18 until March 4, the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers had the honor of hosting Jaroslav Švach, an expert ethnic dance instructor from Břeclav in South Moravia.

Thanks to Jaroslav, we learned several new Moravian dances, as well as how to be better dancers!

Jaroslav is a friend of Markéta Resong, a member of the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors. She arranged for his visit and hosted him at her house.

Sokol Minnesota provided additional time at our C.S.P.S. Hall for our groups to practice with Jaroslav. We also invited the public to join these classes.

The adult, children, and teen dancers each had three sessions with Jaroslav; he taught us new choreographies and helped to sharpen our skills on certain dance steps such as the waltz, Czech polka, and *čardáš*.

He specializes in *verbuňk*, which gives men an opportunity to show off their dance skills. He taught our men a couple new dances, so watch for them to show off their new moves at upcoming events.

He visited New Prague to work with the *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers, led by Deb and Arnie Ziskovsky. Our Saint Paul dancers, dancers from Ethnic Dance Theatre, and 40 students from Saint Olaf College in Northfield spent an evening with Jaroslav at the Tapestry Folk Dance Center in Minneapolis.

We are grateful to Markéta for giving us the opportunity to learn from such a renowned expert. We were fortunate to have the chance to learn authentic new and exciting dances, which we will bring into our programs in the near future.

Besides Markéta, several other Czech-speaking Sokols accompanied Jaroslav to the classes to translate and also on sightseeing trips. Thanks to Lenka Hester, Hana Matousek, Michaela Makarianová-Wentz, and Alena Youngberg. (Pictures on page 7)

Dumpling Class with Hana Matousek

**Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m.
\$15 member/\$20 non-member**

Includes ingredients and a lunch
Call Jean: 651-433-2008



GUEST SPOTLIGHT: Renowned Moravian Folk Dance Instructor Jaroslav Švach spent over two weeks in Minnesota.

Above: *Domáci* Czech Folk Dancers, New Prague.

Below: Tapestry Folk Dance Theatre, Minneapolis.

Below Right: *Taneční* Teens, Saint Paul.



GUEST SPOTLIGHT: Expert Folk Dance Instructor Jaroslav Švach taught us several new choreographies.

Left Above: *Taneční* Mládež, Saint Paul.

Left: *Taneční* Mládež, Saint Paul.

Above: Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.

Below: *Taneční* Teens, Saint Paul



**Sokol Minnesota Gymnasts Hone their Skills
for the Western District Gymnastics Competition
on Saturday, April 22, in Cedar Rapids.**

Go, Minnesota, Go!

Head Instructor is Courtney Bensen, Women's Physical Director, with Junior Instructors: Isabelle Callanan and Charlotte Marboe who help our other experienced Instructors: Alice O'Brien, Carissa Skrivanek, Erica Meyers, Mickaela O'Malley, and Siri Shroeder.

Jason Brozovich is Men's Physical Director, who instructs boys who are 7-years-plus on Monday nights. Assistant Coach is Matt Schussler. They hope to have three competitors ready for the XXIV Slet and Festival in June.

Everyone in the Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics program wants to give a big shoutout to Mary Cahill who oversees both the women's and the men's program. For 28 years Mary has been Women's Physical Director or Assistant Physical Director (an elected position on Czech and Slovak Sokol



Minnesota's Board of Directors, plus a position that must attend Western District meetings).

Thanks also to Joan Sedlacek who sets up the gymnastic equipment on Mondays and Tuesdays of each week.



2017 Slet and Festival on June 22 to 25 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

XXIV Slet and Festival Calendar of Events

Thursday, June 22 • Calisthenics and Marching Competition

• Opening Ceremonies • Evening Social

All at *Scottish Rite Temple* <www.CRScottishRite.org>

Friday, June 23 • Day: Volleyball and Fitness Challenge

at *Iowa Sports Center* <www.iasportscenter.com>

• **Evening:** Slet Banquet and First Annual Sokol Awards

Presentation at *National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library* <www.ncsml.org>

Saturday, June 24 • Day: Gymnastics Competitions

at *Sokol Cedar Rapids* <www.sokolcr.com>

• **Evening:** Victory Dance at *Clarion Hotel* (host hotel)

< www.clarioncr.com>

Sunday, June 25 • Slet Program and Closing Ceremony

at *Kingston Stadium*

If you plan to participate from Minnesota
in XXIV Slet and Festival,

please email <fitness@sokolmn.org> **NOW in April!**

We have to pay as a Sokol Unit in advance.



Everything you want to know about the Slet in Cedar Rapids:

<www.american-sokol.org>

<www.american-sokol.org/board-of-instructors>



Carpathian Festival at the Landmark Center, Saint Paul, February 19

1. Emma Martin and James Metcalf dancing Slovak *Čardáš*. 2. Poster outside Landmark Center. 3. The four-story open atrium ceiling at the beautiful Landmark Center. 4. Jitka Sebek with M.L. Kucera holding puppets at the Czech Honorary Consul table. 5. Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, directed by Louise Wessinger, performed *Valašský z Valašska*. 6. *Legends Come Alive Through Puppets* presented by students of the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities. 7. James Metcalf led *Taneční Mládež*, directed by Louise Wessinger, in *Tancuj*. 8. *Lipa* Slovak Folk Dancers, directed by Don Pařko, performed *Vrchársky z Hřiňovej*. 9. Landmark Center. 10. Chuck Draheim in *kroj* behind the Czech Honorary Consul table while Jean Draheim demonstrated jewelry making with Czech beads at the adjacent table. 11. *Taneční Mládež* danced *Tancuj*. 12. *Lipa* Slovak Folk Dancers women performed *Karička*.

Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota 2017 Pageant and Dinner April 8 in Montgomery

Several young women compete for the title of Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota 2017 on Saturday, April 8, at the Montgomery American Legion Club. The new queen will represent the state of Minnesota during the Miss Czech Slovak US Pageant held in early August in Wilber, Nebraska. The candidates, who must be of Czech, Slovak, or Moravian descent, compete in the categories of talent, ethnic folk dress, on-stage interview, poise and appearance, as well as private interviews.

The festivities begin at 5 p.m. with an ethnic dinner of pork, dumplings, sauerkraut, and *koláče*. The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota pageant starts at 7 p.m. After the coronation, the dancing starts with music by the Charlie Sticha Band.

Special invited guests include royalty from local towns, Kolacky royalty, the Masopust King, Miss Czech Slovak State Queens from surrounding states, the Mayor of Montgomery, and the 2016-2017 Miss Czech Slovak US Queen who is from Nebraska. The Czech Heritage Junior Royalty Ambassadors (Deb and Arnie Ziskovksy, directors) are the hosts of the reception held prior to the dinner.

The Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant committee invites everyone to attend the 2017 pageant to celebrate our unique heritage. Start with an excellent dinner of Czech and Slovak food, see a variety of *kroj*, enjoy the great talents of our contestants, and stay for the dance.

It promises to be an exciting evening!

The reigning Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen is Alexa Turgeon of Lonsdale. Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Princess and Miss Congeniality is Autumn Gare of Montgomery.

Advance sale tickets for the dinner, pageant, and dance (\$19) are available from Jerry and Lorraine David at (507) 364-5384, or the Montgomery Oil Company at (507) 364-9370, or <davidsdiner@hotmail.com>

Or purchase pageant and dance tickets (\$5) at the door.

Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures Saturday, April 22, 9-11 a.m.

C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall, second floor dining room

The Linden and the Oak by Mark Wansa

The World Academy of Rusyn Culture describes the book as “a tale of farmers, lovers, and soldiers. From their humble backwater village in the remote Carpathian Rus’ region of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Vasyl Rusynko and his brothers, alongside the young sisters Paraska and Yevka Senchak, are caught up in the great tidal currents that marked the dawn and early decades of the twentieth century: World War I, Russia’s Bolshevik Revolution, and the flight from Old Europe to New America.”

The author is an American of Rusyn descent.

<<http://www.rusynmedia.org/Links/C-RRC/C-RRC-LindenandOak-flyer.pdf>>

87th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

By Kari and Scott Muyres, Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Co-chairs

Filled with feasting, entertainment, and fellowship, the 87th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic in Pine City will be Sunday, August 13, from 12 noon until 5 p.m. Featuring the “best booya in Pine County,” you won’t want to miss this event!

All Sokol members and the general public are welcome to attend. You can reunite with Sokol family and friends while enjoying a bowl of booya, a plate of *halušky*, or a side of cabbage rolls, as the concertina plays in the background. If you’re interested in volunteering, whether to help serve food or using some muscle to move tables, please call or text 763-226-0313. As a bonus incentive, refreshments will be provided for volunteers!

**Our historic Sokol Camp is located at
19201 Woodland Acres, Pine City, Minnesota 55063**

Sokol Minnesota Annual Memberships

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

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

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

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

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

Honorary Slovak Consul: Donald Pafko Honorary Czech Consul: Marit Lee Kucera Past Honorary Czech Consul: Robert Vanasek
Gift Shop: Doreen McKenney Housekeeping: Robert J. (Jake) Jacobson Kitchen Coordinator: open
Sunshine Committee: Arlene Hamernik Website: Cinnamon Whaley Volunteer Coordinator: open
Hall Contacts: Dan Bednar, Ed Hamernik, Joan Sedlacek *Taneční Mládež* and Teen Folk Dancers: Louise Wessinger
Slovo newsletter: Marit Lee Kucera, Madison Jerde, Deb Ziskovsky, Mary Kucera
Board of Trustees: Dan Bednar, Dennis Cahill, Jake Jacobson, Lloyd Krocak, Terry Shima, Arnie Ziskovsky, Gary Zweber

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Former Sokol Minnesota President Joe Landsberger Honored

By Joyce Tesarek

The West 7th Business Association (W7BA) in Saint Paul made Joe Landsberger (left), former Sokol Minnesota president (2006-2010), an Honorary Life Member at its annual membership meeting on February 16 in recognition of his service and presidency from 2012-2016.

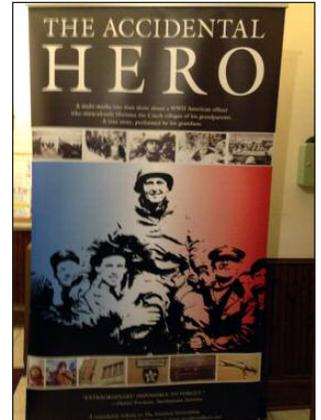
Judy Aubrecht, Diane Gerth, Ed Hamernik, Jyni Koschak, Norm Petrik, Steve Shimer, and Joyce Tesarek represented Sokol Minnesota. Pajarito, the new restaurant at C.S.P.S. Hall, served the refreshments.

The W7BA membership covers an area from the Xcel Center in downtown Saint Paul out to Fort Snelling, from the Mississippi River to 35E. Seventy-eight businesses (about 40%) and organizations in this corridor belong to W7BA.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota has been a W7BA member in good standing for many years.



Mestenhauer Award: On March 3, the Global Programs and Strategy Alliance at the University of Minnesota presented four international students with the 2017 Mestenhauer Student Award for Excellence in Campus Internationalization, named in honor of Dr. Josef Mestenhauer (1925-2015), who was a Distinguished International Emeritus Professor and also Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic (1999-2008). (L-R) Bryan Bergh, Tricia (Mestenhauer) Bergh, Takehito Kanata, Camila Fonseca Sarmiento, Nick Lee, Kren Soi Choi, Marit Lee Kucera (Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic). Tricia and Bryan Bergh are the daughter and son-in-law of the late Dr. Josef Mesenhauer. Recipients' videos are at [http://global.umn.edu/icc/awards/index.html#/>](http://global.umn.edu/icc/awards/index.html#/)



A True Story About Freedom: Seventy-seven people attended the performance on February 7 at C.S.P.S. Hall of *The Accidental Hero*, written and performed by Patrick Dewane, grandson of the WWII American officer who liberated the Czech village of his grandparents in 1945. Dr. Daniel Freeman, University of Minnesota lecturer, moderated the discussion following the performance, which was sponsored by both Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and Czech and Slovak Cultural Center. We hope to bring this spellbinding 90-minute performance back to our C.S.P.S. stage, as a fundraiser in 2018, during the year-long centenary celebration of Czechoslovakia statehood. You will not want to miss this dramatic story portrayed on stage!

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 2017 issue is April 1.**

This 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 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 2018.) Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with your new/renewing non-member subscription.

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

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

If you are temporarily out of town for an extended stay, the post office will not forward your *Slovo* because we use bulk mail. If you wish to have this newsletter suspended during this time or if you wish to have it sent to your out-of-town residence, please let us know.

After one returned issue, we hold all future issues until you notify us. We pay 49¢ for each returned issue.

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

Member Volunteer *Slovo* staff: Madison Jerde, copy editor; M. L. Kucera, managing editor; Mary Kucera, production assistant; Deb Ziskovsky, labels; Martina Gurgel and Joyce Tesarek, photographers; Doreen McKenney, ad designer; Mary Cahill, mailing production; Joan Sedlacek, mailing; with Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, Norm Petrik, Jitka Sebek, advisors. Photographs: Martina Gurgel, M. L. Kucera, Al Milgrom, Patrick O'Leary (Creative Services, Office of University Relations, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), Krissy Schoenfelder (Marketing & Communications Manager, Minnesota Landmarks, Inc.), Joyce Tesarek, ViSta Image Photography

**EVENTS AT C.S.P.S. HALL
ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER!
Sokol Minnesota 2017 Events**

Šibřinky Dance and Supper

Saturday, April 1, 4 - 10 p.m.

Tickets: \$12 at-the-door or \$10 in advance

Ethnic food and beer for sale

Spring Pancake Breakfast, Craft and Bake Sale

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

No reservations needed

\$7 adult, \$5 children 9 and under, \$20 for family of four

Škola Family Easter Celebration

Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Battle of the Bands

Saturday, April 29, 7:30 -11 p.m.

Dumpling Class with Hana Matousek

Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m.

Sokol Minnesota on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota

Check for event updates: www.sokolmn.org



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* April 2017

Spring Breakfast

Craft and Bake Sale

Exquisite handcrafts
(vendor table rental
651-433-2008).



Bake goods
for your Easter table
(pre-order koláče
651-290-0542).

Public
welcome.

Sunday, April 9

9 a.m. - 1p.m.

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

\$7.00 adult; \$5.00 children under 9.

\$22.00 family of four (two adults and two children).



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