

UPCOMING EVENTS

October Slovo Deadline
Friday, September 1

Board of Trustees
Wednesday, September 13,
7 p.m.

Board of Directors
Thursday, September 21,
7 p.m.

**28th Czech and Slovak
Festival**
Sunday, September 24,
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
To volunteer: 651-290-0542

28th annual CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL



September 24, 2017 • 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*Ethnic food and beverages,
vendors, dance performances,
live music, silent auction,
children's games, singing,
drawings, and more!
Accessible facilities.*



C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

*Hosted by
Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota.
Free Admission.
Public Welcome.
www.sokolmn.org*



Visit *Ride of the Kings* in the first floor classroom, C.S.P.S. Hall.

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

If you missed the Sokol Minnesota culture booth at the Festival of Nations back in May, you have another chance to see our *Ride of the Kings*, the Moravian rider and horse, at our 28th Czech and Slovak Festival. Doreen McKenney designed and created the display. The festival takes place on Sunday, September 24, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at C.S.P.S. Hall.

The story of the *Ride of the Kings* stems from the flight of the Hungarian king, Matthias Corvinus. After being defeated in battle at Bílovec in 1469 by his father-in-law, Jiří of Poděbrady, Corvinus escaped by dressing as a bride in traditional Moravian folk dress. In order to avoid detection, an elaborate headdress, complete with long ribbons, covered his face. To avoid talking and sounding like a man, Corvinus carried a long-stemmed rose between his lips. The *Ride of the Kings* is re-enacted during the last weekend in May in several Moravian towns and also during festival parades. Chanters lead the procession and call out to the viewers with jokes. Pageboys, who carry sabers, guard the king. Horses are elaborately decorated with colorful paper flowers and ribbons. Please bring your family and friends to our Czech and Slovak Festival. Be sure to see the *Ride of the Kings* horse, which will be on display in the first floor classroom.

I would like to thank Mike Sebek for his contributions to our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors. Mike has served for several years as our sergeant-at-arms. Mike recently resigned from the Board of Directors due to family and other responsibilities. His background in business provided a valuable perspective to the Board. Construction and project management were special interests of Mike; he took a particular interest in building projects, like our new fire escape. We wish Mike well! Glynis Grostephan has agreed to be our new sergeant-at-arms; she will complete Mike's term. She became a member of Sokol Minnesota a year ago, and recently retired from a long career in education. Her interests include Czech language, cooking, events, genealogy, singing, and theater. Glynis has also enthusiastically volunteered to chair the silent auction for our 28th Czech and Slovak Festival; she has creative ideas for this Sokol Minnesota fund-raising activity.

The city of Saint Paul is in the final stages of approving the construction of a new shed under our fire escape. The shed will enclose the staircase that goes down to the basement. It will not only make the staircase more private, but also more secure for deliveries to C.S.P.S. Hall and the Pajarito restaurant. Sokol Minnesota recently received a micro grant from the West 7th Business Association to replace the fencing near the alley. The micro grant is much appreciated and will help us wrap up the construction projects on the north side of our property. When you attend the Czech and Slovak Festival, please take a look at the impressive new fire escape and other projects. *Nazdar!*

Tempus Fugit/Čas letí

News from the Education/Language Program By Blanka Brichta

It's that time of the year again!

Registration for Czech and Slovak language classes is now open

Last year, we had a wonderful group of eager and enthusiastic students. Our language program offered a total of five different levels and classes, which included Beginners Czech, Advanced Beginners Czech, Intermediate Level Czech, Advanced Level Czech, and last, but not least, a multilevel Slovak language class.

Our classes are very diverse; students join for many reasons, which range from learning basic words to expanding their conversational skills. We have different levels to accommodate all abilities. Opportunities to explore the culture, heritage, and history of both the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic also are offered to our students. In the past, these have included attending screenings of Czech films and crafting traditional Christmas decorations for our front window display at the Hall.

Did I mention the potlucks, which feature homemade Czech food that students bring to share? How can you resist?

If this sounds like fun to you, please join us.

Our fall classes start the week of September 25!

Check out <www.sokolmn.org> for more information, or email <education@sokolmn.org>

We look forward to seeing you in the classroom!

Silent Auction Donations Wanted for Czech and Slovak Fall Festival, September 24

By Glynis Grostephan

Please support Sokol Minnesota by donating to our annual Czech and Slovak Fall Festival silent auction.

We are in need of items with a value of at least \$25, which could include gift certificates, collectibles, wine or beer, event tickets, and goods with a Czech or Slovak connection.

We are also in search of cash donations, so we can purchase items for theme baskets. This year, we hope to create theme baskets: arts and crafts, As-Seen-on-T.V., beer making, book club, chocoholic, coffee lovers, date night, family fun, grill master, holiday cheer, home and garden, Minnesota fun, night-at-the-movies, spa-tacular, and sports fans.

Please box donations (including your contact information), label them "Silent Auction" and drop them off at the Hall.

Please contact Glynis Grostephan at <ggrostephan@earthlink.net> to arrange donations.

Your contributions are tax-deductible and will be gratefully acknowledged.

Highlights from the July 20 Board of Directors Meeting

By Denise Stibal, Recording Secretary

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on July 20 at 7 p.m.

The Czech Country Cities in Minnesota, which include New Prague, Montgomery, and Lonsdale, have printed a bookmark listing our organization. Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Czech Consul, purchased one thousand and donated them for distribution in the August *Slovo* and for the information rack at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Ed Hamernik is currently waiting on finalized materials for our shed project; he also reported that the interior of the Hall and the fire escape stairs will be painted beginning on August 19.

Norm Petrik stated that we have five new members, which brings our current membership to 285 members. Our membership brochure is now on the website with links to other organizations.

Joyce Tesarek reported that it has been a year since we signed the lease with Pajarito restaurant; she will send flowers as a thank you. Current pending grants include the STAR Grant for \$85,979 to be used toward cap resetting and brick tuck pointing; \$500 from West 7th Business Association for the fence; and a Legacy Grant that will also assist with parapet and tuck pointing.

Mary Cahill reported that the *slet* in Cedar Rapids was a great success. Congratulations to all who participated!

Mike Sebek has resigned as our sergeant-at-arms; Glynis Grostephan has volunteered to finish his term. Jyni Koschak reported that we are participating in the Healthy West 7th event on August 10. A planning meeting for the Czech and Slovak Fall Festival is scheduled for July 31.

C.S.P.S. Hall is Hiring

C.S.P.S. Hall currently has a part-time job opening available that involves the setup, take down, and cleanup of rental events at the C.S.P.S. Hall. Events take place mainly on weekends. Other duties could be added in the future. Must be physically fit and able to lift tables. Applicants must also be reliable and have dependable transportation.

If interested, please send your resume to <hallrental@sokolmn.org> or leave a message at 651-290-0542.

C.S.P.S. Hall Fire Escape Stairs Project Update

By Joyce Tesarek

With the fire escape stairs installed, our focus has shifted to replacing the shed and fence demolished during the fire escape stairs construction. While the estimated project cost is \$30,000, we have been awarded three grants to help us get started.

- Our parent organization, the American Sokol Organization (\$3,000).
- The West 7th Business Association (\$500 grant).
- The Government of the Czech Republic (60,000 CZK or \$2,515.15).

We want to extend our thanks to these generous donors! If you would like to be a part of this project, please visit <SokolMN.org> for more information, or donate with a check, made out to Sokol Minnesota. Please send to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. All donations are tax deductible and 100% goes to the project. *Thank you!*

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!*

Collection of Dolls from Czech and Slovak Regions

By Vicki Bont Photography by Nicole Malotky

This article began when my family and I made our annual visit to the Festival of Nations in Saint Paul last May. We were impressed with the stunning Czech and Slovak display booth (*Ride of the Kings*) at the Cultural Exhibition Hall. That's where I met Marit Lee Kucera, the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic and *Slovo's* managing editor.

I told Marit about my 2,000+ collection of ethnic, folk, and foreign dolls from around the world, which is what brings me to the festival each year. She then proceeded to begin my education on the presence and contribution of the Czech and Slovak people to the American Midwest.

Soon after, Marit asked me to write an article for *Slovo* about the dolls I have from the regions of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. I am gladly sharing what I know (or think I know) about them, and would welcome any reader's knowledge about the dolls. I am in the process of putting all of the dolls' information and pictures online for a reference guide, so I would greatly appreciate any accurate information about them!

My collection started when my father's college mentor (yes, they had those back in the forties), John L. Young, traveled the world for his job as a vice president of U.S. Steel, the world's largest corporation for over forty years. John and his wife, Elizabeth, sent my sister and me each a doll from every country he worked in during the 1960s. We both have continued collecting.

Since my parents were teachers, our family would travel every summer in our trusty truck camper. Continuing a three-generation tradition, both my sister and I became teachers. I have continued collecting dolls, plus friends and family gift me with dolls from every corner of the world.

PHOTO ONE: This grouping of dolls is made of cornhusk that were popular tourist dolls in the 1970s from the then-communist country of Czechoslovakia. The girls dancing in a ring and the fiddler were purchased in 1970, in Dearborn, Michigan. The woman sitting on the bench and sewing came from a United Nations (U.N.) Gift Shop in Lansing, Michigan, in 1983.



PHOTO ONE

PHOTO TWO: This Slovak couple (far left and third left), purchased from the U.N. shop in Lansing, Michigan in 1983, is stylized in design; the detail of these dolls is wonderful with embroidery. They, too, were popular in the 1960s and 70s, as my sister has a similar pair in her collection from the United Nations in New York City. Hers are labeled "Tatra."

READERS, I ask you, could my pair be from another region?

The carved wooden doll on the right, made in Germany, is part of a series of regional dolls. It is not surprising that a German doll maker would include parts of Czechoslovakia in his series, considering the long and entangled history the areas share. Although I purchased this doll in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, in 1985, she is from the 1930s, which was a time of a great deal of German tourism in the region.

The smaller soft-rubber doll in the front (second left) depicts a schoolgirl, a popular tourist gift, purchased at the Lansing, Michigan, U.N. shop in 1986.



PHOTO TWO

PHOTO THREE: This trio has a very interesting story to tell. My husband and I found them in a small store in a gas station near Portland, Maine, in 2015. They are exquisitely detailed and handmade silhouettes carved in and painted on wood. In addition, each piece has written in pencil a caption on the bottom that further illustrates the ties between regions of Czechoslovakia and Germany at a very pivotal time in history.

The trio depicts rural Slovaks in their finest traditional dress and a horse, perhaps for a festival. Written under the bases in pencil of each the men is "1931- Slovak" and under the woman is "Slovakin." Then in German "von" (from) "Gaja" (a region in Slovakia noted for fine wineries) "sudman" (meaning south or southern in German).

PHOTO FOUR: Features four dolls all made by

the same doll company: *Lidová tvorba*, Slovak Home Industries (a communist collective), that was in production from the 1960s to early 1980s in communist Czechoslovakia. The dolls were made from highly flammable celluloid, but that did not stop production of these well-costumed examples. I have been told that the boy (in front) is possibly a “Kojovijan” with his red embroidered bolero jacket with ribbons, red pants with looped black embroidery, and flat-black hat with lace. I do not know for sure if this is true. Could anyone clear this up for me?

I was told that the doll on the far left was a schoolgirl. Moreover, I know no particulars about the doll in the middle wearing a red scarf and white puffed sleeves and pleated skirt. I found both in Lansing, Michigan, in 1984. Can anyone tell me more about them?

The seller said the doll on the right with a yellow lace collar and blue floral vest with pleated skirt was from Moravia, which is part of the Czech Republic.

She was purchased in San Diego in 2016. However, that seller also said that she is a *Piešťany* doll, which means that she would be from present day Slovakia. Does any reader have any thoughts on this?

In sixteen dolls, we have covered several Czech and Slovak regions and history. My husband and I are planning to go to Prague to see this area of great diversity in culture and, of course, to find dolls to fill in the gaps in my collection.

If anyone would like to give me information about the origin or cultural significance of these dolls, please contact me at <rvkbont@gmail.com>. I will be sure to report your help and findings back to *Slovo*!



PHOTO THREE



PHOTO FOUR

Member News: *In Memoriam*

Shirley Jean (Andrle) Verner, a Sokol member for over 65 years, passed away peacefully at her home on August 17. Visitation will be at Honsa Family Funeral Home, 2460 East County Road E, White Bear Lake on Friday, September 15 from 4 to 8 p.m.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the C.S.P.S Hall on Sunday, September 17. Visitation at 11 a.m. with the Celebration of Life at 12 noon. Luncheon to follow.

A complete obituary will appear in the Minneapolis and Saint Paul newspapers and on the Honsa Family Funeral Home website <www.honsafamilyfuneral.com>

Memorials preferred to the Sokol Minnesota children’s dance program, Sokol theater restoration project, or donor’s choice.

Welcome New Members

At the August 17 meeting, the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors accepted the following persons as members of Sokol Minnesota.

One couple: Mark Neuzil and Amy Kuebelbeck, Saint Paul, with interests in language.

Four singles: David Holets, Minneapolis, with interest in

By Norm Petrik, Membership Director

history; Kenneth Mowll, Minneapolis, with interests in language, history/genealogy, and cooking; Larry Hlavsa, West Saint Paul, with interests in history/genealogy; and Kris Pich, Minneapolis, with interests in language, cooking history/genealogy, and various events.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

A Wedding in Brno and a Visit to My Ancestral Villages By Frank Trnka

This summer, I had the unique opportunity to be part of a Czech wedding in Brno, Moravia, Czech Republic. Lucie Šilerová and Martin Pešl invited me to play the organ for their July wedding. I first met them when Lucie came to the C.S.P.S. Hall in 2009 to examine the Sokol music and theater archives. Since then, the three of us have had a number of adventures together, both here in Minnesota and in various parts of the Czech Republic.



Frank Trnka at the *Kostel Nejsvětější Trojice* organ.

Being an integral part of a wedding is an opportunity not usually available to an American tourist. This was an exciting opportunity for me to become better acquainted with Czech culture, as well as an extreme challenge to see if I could function adequately on an unfamiliar instrument and also overcome the language barrier with my limited Czech.

The Church of The Holy Trinity (*Kostel Nejsvětější Trojice*) in Brno-Královo Pole was built in 1375; it was remodeled in the Baroque style between 1760 and 1777. The organ, however, was built in the 1950s during the Communist era, when the church was not given access to quality building materials to construct an organ. Unfortunately, this organ also has not been well maintained. It is a larger organ than I have played since I was a student 50-plus years ago. I was cautioned to expect some things not to work. I knew I would need a substantial amount of time to get used to the organ and to find ways to make it sound its best.

I arrived in Brno ten days before the wedding. During the first week, I spent four hours every day figuring out how to get the best possible sounds out of the

organ. I also worked on my “travel independence.” The layout of Brno is not simple; there is a complex system of trams and buses covering the city and outlying areas. I took the tram to and from the church. I also explored and shopped on my own in Brno when I was not at the church practicing.

Lucie and Martin invited me on an outing to the Austrian border to pick up wine for the wedding. After I explored the historic city center of Znojmo, I went with them to the Znojmo vineyard for wine tasting. (As far as I have been able to determine, wine from Znojmo is the only Moravian wine available in the United States; it was served at the reception for Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka when he visited the C.S.P.S. Hall in Saint Paul in April 2016.)

After five days in the guest room at Lucie’s and Martin’s, I moved into a flat vacated by Martin’s sister Eva, where I lodged for the rest of my Brno stay. This was closer to the city center, and also it provided a new neighborhood for me to explore. Fortunately, it was an easy tram ride to the church to practice organ.

There were four musicians involved in the wedding, the young church organist, a flutist, a singer, and myself. Josef Hanáček, the organist, had the task of explaining the workings of the organ to me with his limited English and my limited Czech (we used lots of gestures!). After Lucie had a chance to listen to the various pieces we had prepared, she determined that I would provide music while the wedding guests gathered, play the processional, and perform a short piece while the marriage license was being signed.

Josef would play the organ music during the wedding mass and accompany the singer; the singer would accompany the flutist. Josef also would play the recessional. This division of music responsibilities removed some of my stress. If the weather were nice, the receiving line could be outside, and I would play loud music. If the receiving line were indoors due

to rain, I would play quiet music. I needed about an hour’s worth of music prepared to be ready for whatever might happen.

The weather on the day of the wedding was hot with scattered thunderstorms. Since the sky was clear after the marriage ceremony, the receiving line took place outside, with no music needed, as everyone was outside by the time the recessional was over.

A car shuttle took everyone to the afternoon reception at the Olympia Train Park (*Parková dráha Olympia Brno*) where Lucie’s extended family has volunteered over the years. Part of this reception also included belly dance performances; Lucie is part



Photo: PaedDr. Josef Strubl

Frank Trnka (far right) enjoyed watching a traditional Czech wedding day custom that is meant to determine if the couple can work together to deal with difficulties. First the catering hostess presented the bridal couple with large shots of *slivovice* (slivovitz), then she threw a dish to the sidewalk and gave them a whiskbroom and dustpan to work together to sweep up every shard before they could enter the reception area. Lucie and Martin passed the test! The bridal party consisted of four bridesmaids and one best man.

of a belly dance company (as well as chair of her department at the music conservatory and a teacher of Zumba). Skies were threatening, but this part of the festivities was hot and dry.

Towards evening, there was another car shuttle to the evening reception on an eighth-floor terrace overlooking the city of Brno and *Špilberk* Castle; guests could retreat to a large (though un-air-conditioned) indoors area during the repeated thunderstorms that passed over during the evening. The views of the storms from the terrace were amazing. The evening included more belly dance performances, and later about 40 to 50 guests doing Zumba routines lead by Lucie in her wedding dress and two other instructors. She successfully shared these parts of her life about which she cares so passionately. The next day, the Sunday luncheon was for immediate family and special guests.

On Sunday, I took the train from Brno to Veselí nad Lužnicí to spend a couple days with Trnka/Malecha relatives in nearby Sviny, one of my ancestral villages. This was my fourth visit to Sviny. Each trip I meet a few more family members, but this was the first time I was invited to stay in the family homestead, which has been in the Malecha family for at least 300 years. I also borrowed a bicycle for a morning ride around Sviny and the neighboring countryside. One of my Malecha relatives, who became interested in family history after my visit in 2014, had learned to read the gothic script in the archival documents. She found new information about my Trnka family, which added a couple of generations to my tree and solved a couple of mysteries. My great-great grandparents had come to the United States in 1862 with ten of their twelve children. The oldest son later emigrated after he finished his seven-year term in the Austro-Hungarian army, but one son remained behind. My Malecha relative found information about that son and some of his descendants. This is treasured knowledge to me. I also visited the homesteads of my 3rd and 4th great-grandparents in nearby Mažice and Zálší.

Tuesday, I took the train back to Brno in time to see Lucie and Martin off on their honeymoon. I spent Wednesday finalizing return-trip details and last minute shopping. At 3 a.m. Thursday, I began the 24-hour return journey to Minneapolis.

This was a trip that I will never forget and the first one where I felt less like a tourist. I even had Czech people asking me for directions in Brno! (Not that I could help them, but it was fun to be asked!)



Interior of The Church of The Holy Trinity (*Kostel Nejsvětější Trojice*) in Brno-Královo Pole.

Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota

Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota (CSCC) held its planning board meeting on Saturday, August 19, at the University Club in Saint Paul. Main topics of discussion covered cultural event planning for 2017-2018, to be reported in *Slovo* in the upcoming October issue.



CSCC is a sponsor of the screening of *Banjo Romantika*, a film documentary of Czech musicians who play their own unique style of bluegrass music. It screens during the **12th Annual Harvest Jam Acoustic Music Experience, November 17 - 19** at the Minneapolis Marriott West Hotel in Saint Louis Park, with the **Malina Brothers from the Czech Republic** as the headliner band on Saturday evening, plus playing a 30-minute set on Friday night and a gospel set on Sunday morning. For ticket details: <www.minnesotabluegrass.org> or 800-635-3037.

(Front) Joyce Tesarek, CSCC Board Secretary; Renáta Tichá, CSCC Board President; Cheryl Nelson, CSCC Program Chair.
(Back) M.L. Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic; Gwen Willems, CSCC Member-at-Large; Don Paľko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic; Andy Kozak, CSCC Member-at-Large; Jan Knudtson, Vice President for Publicity and Public Relations.

Phillips Represented at 75th Anniversary in Lidice

By Toni Brendel

My connection with Lidice began in 1948 when my grandfather returned to his homeland and got soil from the fallen village. During a memorial service at Sokol Hall in Phillips, Wisconsin, it was sprinkled into a small vault by two young girls and buried at the foot of the Lidice Monument in Phillips. I was one of those girls. Due to the large populations of Czech/Slovak immigrants near Stern Park Gardens (renamed Crest Hill), Illinois, and Phillips, Wisconsin, two monuments exist today in the United States and annual memorial services are still held.

The events that took place in Lidice, June 10, 1942, are recorded as part of Holocaust history. It was one of the worst single act atrocities of World War II. Citizens of the small village, entirely innocent, were chosen as scapegoats by Nazi leaders when General Reinhard Heydrich, by some accounts, creator of the "Final Solution," died after an assassination attempt. At Lidice, 178 men were shot dead, all women sent to concentration camps, 82 children were gassed, and 6 died by other means. Seventeen Nordic-featured children were spared to be "Germanized." Valuables were stolen; the village was burned, dynamited, and obliterated: an example made for plotting against the Third Reich.

Since that time, on June 10, Lidice is mentioned in world news. What makes the Lidice story notable and lasting is the fact that one citizen of Stoke-on-Trent, England, Barnett Stross, M.D., a member of the British Parliament, answered Hitler's "Lidice Shall DIE Forever!" with "Lidice Shall LIVE!" The slogan and his resolve to help rebuild Lidice were approved by Parliament. The miners in his district initiated a fund to memorialize fellow miners by rebuilding Lidice. The message spread throughout the world. After rebuilding began in 1947, Dr. Stross suggested a rose garden of peace and friendship with people all over the world donating rose bushes and an art gallery to become a part of the memorial grounds. In 1967, a living tribute to the Lidice children and all child victims of war became a reality. The International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts, Lidice, has had 60-70 nations take part and the Lidice Repository holds over 500 pieces of art donated by renown artists the world-over. Dr. Stross died in 1967, but his message lives on and the Lidice Memorial stands today as a beacon of friendship and peace in a troubled world.

My interest in Lidice never diminished. I visited the new village while under Communist control twice, and twice since. After writing *Lidice Remembered Around the World*, I visited



Photo: Martin Homola

Toni Brendel followed as two Czech military carried the large commemorative wreath from Phillips, Wisconsin.

under the new government and interviewed two surviving "Lidice Children." At present, on behalf of our festival committee, I stay in touch with people in Lidice, Czech Republic; Crest Hill, Illinois; Stoke-on-Trent, United Kingdom; and Quito, Ecuador.

I was honored to be invited to the 75th annual memorial service as an International Guest. My daughter, Tami Satre, accompanied me. It was fitting that the Phillips Czech/Slovak Community Festival Committee contributed rose bushes to the garden this year, and that a floral wreath was presented on its behalf during the anniversary service.

The Journey.....

June 8, in Prague, we attended a program sponsored by Prague schools at Brožík's Hall on Old Town Square. It was an impressive event with talented young people rendering music and drama, with a presentation of awards to students who captured the Lidice tragedy through art. There we met Ivona Kasalická, Curator of the International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts – Lidice. For the first time, I met Alan and Cheryl Gerrard, from Stoke-on-Trent, United Kingdom, with whom I had corresponded for over a year.

Realizing that after Dr. Stross died in 1967 and that people of Stoke forgot about his efforts and how deeply citizens were involved, Alan made an effort to renew the link between the two cities. They were hoping for an international show of support to renew the Lidice Shall Live movement and the deeper meaning of its existence today. Connecting with others having similar interests was made possible via the internet and we became acquainted in that way. After the program, we met together and talked of new ideas and that continued during the next few days. Alan spoke of his interest in getting musicians from other countries together to honor Lidice in the future. I thought of the many talented musicians I know, coincidentally, with Czech surnames.

June 9. That afternoon we travelled to Lidice for a welcome reception. It was pleasing to see the familiar faces of Mayor Veronika Kellerová and two "Lidice Children" I had interviewed in 2012. That evening, a Czech Army Band and two popular singers presented concerts. It was a beautiful starlit night and in addition to enjoyable music, my thoughts turned to my then-young Czech grandparents who left families and home villages to immigrate to America in 1905.

Continued on page 9



United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Jon Fisher from the Office of Defense Cooperation at the American Embassy in Prague and Toni Brendel stood with the wreath from Phillips, Wisconsin, on June 10 in Lidice.

Our Month in Minnesota By Martin Kořínek

As students of veterinary medicine studying in Brno, we have many opportunities to study abroad, more than any previous generation in the Czech Republic. However, we never dreamed of the opportunity to pursue an internship in the United States. This year, we found out that America, specifically Minnesota, is much closer than we thought.

Thanks to the support of our university and to the help of Dr. Joyce Tesarek, Klára Tlačbavová and I stayed in Minneapolis for 35 days as guests of the Hermann family. The main goal of our trip was to intern at various veterinary clinics in Minneapolis. We observed skilled doctors and veterinary technicians during their work and learned many new things. Besides gaining work experience, we explored the Twin Cities by bikes. At the beginning of our stay, we enjoyed the Fourth of July celebration at Fort Snelling. This touch of history meant a lot to me, because I am involved in a living history group, which reenacts the involvement of US Army 2nd Infantry Division in the World War II liberation of my home town of Plzeň.

We always wanted to see the Great Lakes; our dream finally came true during the next weekend. We visited the city of Duluth and spent a great time in the lovely farmhouse of Joyce's brother, John, in Superior, Wisconsin. Swimming in Lake Superior chilled me, but our visit to northern Minnesota was definitely a heart-warming experience.



Martin Kořínek and Klára Tlačbavová, two veterinary students from the Czech Republic, with Dr. Joyce Tesarek (middle).

The last weekend of our stay, we hit the road to Chicago with a Greyhound bus; thanks to an early arrival, we had a chance to see both downtown and the Field Museum without crowds. It was an amazing impression to walk down Cermak

Road, and to think about the fact that the Windy City was the second biggest Czech city in the world back in the 1930s. On July 29, we visited the small Minnesota city called Montgomery surrounded by landscape, which not accidentally resembles our home. Since 1929, Montgomery is where the Czech festival, Kolacky Days, takes place; we had the opportunity to see the impressive parade, taste the *jitrnice*, and got to know people who celebrate their Czech heritage more proudly than most people living in the Czech Republic. In Minnesota, we met so many wonderful people for whom volunteering is not just an empty word. Only because of these people was our journey realized. Thank you, Minnesotans!

Czech Kroje Donated to Sokol Minnesota By Louise Wessinger



Two years ago at the annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic in Pine City, Minnesota, I was approached by Mary Olson, who had recently seen a performance by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. She told me that her aunt, Margaret Jablonsky of Dickinson, North Dakota, had made *kroje* (folk costumes) for a local Czech band and dance group. Mary was not sure what had become of those folk costumes, but she said her aunt was a wonderful seamstress, who had even added handmade Czech motifs to the sleeves.

About a week later, Mary's cousin, Tammy Sattler called. She said that when her mother, Margaret, died, the costumes were donated to a small museum in Dickinson. Tammy said that she was willing to call and see if the costumes were being used. Upon learning that they were not, she went to Dickinson to pick up the ones that were still in good condition.

This spring, Tammy (pictured left) called me to say that she had retrieved, washed, and ironed the costumes. I met her in Detroit Lakes, where I picked up several women's Bohemian folk dresses, a teen boy's costume, and a young girl's costume. There were also several extra red skirts. All the pieces were beautifully made and still have several years of dancing in them. Thank you, Mary Olson and Tammy Sattler, for your generous gift to Sokol Minnesota.

Lidice continued from page 8

June 10. Brunch was provided for international guests. The following memorial ceremony was something I will never forget. Opening with Czech and Slovak national anthems, a military band played as young Czech Soldiers, two by two, made their way up a long winding path carrying wreaths to the foot of a huge cross under which the men of Lidice lay. Each delegation walked behind. Our wreath was number 59 and many more followed. After the service, we attended the opening of the 45th International Children's Exhibition of Fine Arts – Lidice winner's circle. It was unbelievable that such talent came from children ages 4 through 16 who represented over 60 nations. Lastly, dozens of school choirs performed. Sweet young voices penetrated a light breeze, gently toning down the heat of the day. Between groups, the

crowd was hushed and one could feel that this place where a village once stood was surely a place of reverence.

June 11. Sunday was spent with the Kasalický family. After lunch we went to their home in Buštěhrad, near Lidice. We toured their neighborhood and then retreated from the hot sun under a huge umbrella in a small courtyard leading into their home. After much good conversation and more good food, we were taken back to our hotel.

June 12. Mgr. Martina Lehmannová, the Director of Lidice Memorial, and Ivona Kasalická bade us farewell and gifted several books on Lidice to the Phillips City Library. A driver took us back to Prague, courtesy of the Lidice Memorial. I will never forget the generosity, warmth, and friendship of the people now living in Lidice and we must never forget those who perished in 1942.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics 2017-2018



2017-2018 Sokol instructors: Jason Brozovich (Boys' Head Coach), Matt Schussler, Isabelle, Charlotte, first row: Courtney Benson (Women's Head Coach), Carissa Skrivanek, not pictured: Zoe, Ella.

Sokol Gymnastics provides a safe and fun learning environment, all while challenging your child to master exciting new skills. Our program boasts small class sizes, allowing each gymnast plenty of individual attention.

Moreover, our program is designed to accommodate a variety of ages across all abilities from beginner to intermediate all the way up to advanced and competition.

Our program is led by experienced and qualified instructors.

CLASSES START SEPTEMBER 11

For more information

fitness@sokolmn.org

651-290-0542

All of 2018: Celebrate 100/50/25

with Czechs and Slovaks around the world:
100 years since the formation of Czechoslovakia
50 years since the Prague Spring

25 years since the creation of the two separate nations
of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic

Thanks to web designer Kevin Hurbanis from CGSI (Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International); Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota; and Don Pafko, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic for Minnesota, there is a website calendar listing all events, large and small, that pertain to Czech and/or Slovak culture, heritage, music, dance, art, lectures, cinema, athletics, or business in our four upper Midwest states. Check the website often, new events added regularly: <www.CzechSlovakCentury.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS of INTEREST

September 23, 1 p.m., Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota (PACIM) Guest Speaker Series:

Victor Cordella -An Architect for All.

Holy Cross Church, 1621 University Avenue NE, Minneapolis 55413. Wisconsin historian Geoffrey Gyrisco talks about the 12 Minnesota churches designed by Polish-born architect Victor Cordella (1872-1937) of Minneapolis. Meet-the-Speaker reception afterward.

September 29, Friday evening, and September 30, Saturday, 7th Annual Taste of Northeast,

St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral, 17th and 5th Street NE, Minneapolis. Visit the Rusin Association's display in the lower level of the parish center.

October 17 to 21, Tuesday to Saturday, 16th Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International Genealogical/Cultural Conference, Hyatt Regency Hotel Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, International Airport. Conference theme is *Industry and Our Immigrant Ancestors*. <www.cgsievents.com>

June 30 - July 7, 2018, International Sokol Slet in Prague.

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
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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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BOOK REVIEW

By Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

Perutz's Stories Build to Create a Novel

By Night Under the Stone Bridge by Leo Perutz.
Translated by Eric Mosbacher. New York: Arcade Publishing,
1990 (first published 1953), 198 pages.
Available in libraries and bookstores.

Leo Perutz's *By Night Under the Stone Bridge* is not a light, summer read for the beach; but if you're willing to work your way through its 198 pages, you'll be rewarded. The collection comprises fourteen interconnected stories (some interesting, some confusing) that develop an overarching plot. The book is set in Prague in the early 1600s, when Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II ruled over Bohemia.

Royal activities within the court are a farce. Rudolf routinely finds himself cheated by his courtiers, while his corrupt and spendthrift ways make him dependent on Mordechai Meisl, a rich Jew. Described as someone who "succeeds in everything he touches... [and] so rich that he spreads sugar on his honey," Meisl prospers under the king's protection. But unbeknownst to Meisl, his wife and Rudolf are having an affair through a spirit transformation, which by the end of the book gives us a different perspective on the relationship between Meisl and the Emperor.

Subplots bring together a rich mixture of history, mysticism, mystery, stunning scenery, legends, and romance. The

fantastical nature of the book led one reader to post online, that if Lewis Carroll and Franz Kafka gave birth to a child, it would most likely be Perutz. (David, June 10, 2017, in his review on the Goodreads website <goodreads.com/book/show/642221.By_Night_Under_the_Stone_Bridge?from_search=true>)

A large cast of finely drawn characters immerses the reader in the story. In addition to Rudolf, Mordechai Meisl, and his beautiful wife, Esther, the narratives also feature blundering, Shakespearean-esque musicians, Koppel-the-bear and Jäckel-the-fool, the Great Rabbi Lowe, and a multitude of astrologers, alchemists, and adventurers.

Novelist and mathematician, Leo Perutz, was born in Prague in 1882 and lived in Vienna until the Nazi Anschluss in 1938, when he immigrated to Palestine. He returned to Vienna in the 1950s. Perutz wrote eleven novels, usually combining history and adventure with a metaphysical twist. Although often neglected among Central European masters, experts consider him a genius of the historical novel and a master of suspense.

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>.

Join Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures on September 16, 9 - 11 a.m., in the first-floor class room at the C.S.P.S. Hall, for a discussion of *The Gág Family: German-Bohemian Artists in America* by Julie L'Enfant.

Last Opportunity to Buy a Chance!

at the C-S Festival
on September 24

Set of 12
Czechoslovak
Vintage Cut Crystal
Wine Glasses

Drawing:
4 p.m. September 24
Ticket: \$20



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 October 2017 issue is September 1.

This issue of *Slovo* will be archived on the Sokol Minnesota website by September 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, with ad and payment due by copy deadline.

***Slovo* gift subscriptions and non-member renewals** are \$15/year (10 issues). (Rate is good through September 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, Minnesota 55102.
Extra copies of *Slovo* are \$2 each, plus postage, while supply lasts.

NEWS of INTEREST

After 35 years, Bohemia Books USA changed ownership in August 2017. John Sramek has retired.

The new owner, Scott Marcussen, Plano, Texas, is a math and science teacher in nearby Fairview. Nina Marcussen is the founder and director of the Václav Havel Czech School of Dallas, which works closely with Sokol Dallas. They look forward to bringing Czech language reading requirements to your door.

The new name "New Bohemia Books USA" honors the legacy of John Sramek and also indicates the new steps being taken to bring Czech literature to American readers. Info at 469-772-0365 or <www.newbohemiabooksusa.com>

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¢ or more 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, Minnesota 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: Blanka Brichta, Josef Hanáček, Martin Homola, Nicole Malotky, Tami Satre, PaedDr. Josef Strubl, Joyce Tesarek, Frank Trnka, Louise Wessinger. Mailing volunteers for August: Mary Cahill, Megan Cahill, M.L. Kucera, Val Kusile, Joan Sedlacek, Joann Sipe, Alyssa Vinar.

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

28th Czech and Slovak Festival
Sunday, September 24, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Live music, folk dancers, gymnasts, children's games,
beer and wine, ethnic food, and silent auction.
Free admission.
Please Volunteer: 651-290-0542

Czech Roast Pork Dinner
Sunday, October 22, 12:30 p.m.
Traditional menu.
Call 651-290-0542.
Prepaid reservations by October 16

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



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* September 2017



Fall 2017 Events at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, MN 55102 | 651-290-0542

Gift shop open during Sokol Minnesota events.
Go to www.sokolmn.org for the latest information | Questions? events@sokolmn.org

28th Czech & Slovak Festival
Sunday, September 24, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Music, folk dancers, gymnasts, children's games,
ethnic food, Sweet Shoppe with koláče, Czech beer,
vendors, info booths, silent auction.
Dance to live music at 4 p.m.
Free admission. Accessible facilities.
Volunteer to help: 612-822-6147.

Family Events
Sundays, September 17, October 29,
and November 12, 4 - 7 p.m.
Potluck supper, family activities for children of all ages.
Mikulášská besídka, December 9, 3-9 p.m.

Czech Roast Pork Dinner
Sunday, October 22, 12:30 p.m.
Traditional menu: roast pork, raised-bread dumplings,
sauerkraut, dessert, and coffee. Cash beer and wine bar.
\$18 adult, \$9 child under 9.
Prepaid reservations by October 16: 651-290-0542.

Pancake Breakfast/Holiday Craft and Bake Sale
November 19, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
\$7 adult; \$5 child under 9; \$22 family of four.
No reservations needed.
Pre-order koláče: 651-290-0542.
Reserve a craft table: 651-433-2008.

Sokol Children's Holiday Party
December 8, 7 p.m.
Dancers perform. Special visit from Svatý Mikuláš.

Membership Holiday Party
Sunday, January 7, 2018, 4 - 7 p.m.
Festivity, food, and fun. \$10/person for ethnic dinner.
Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

15th Annual Candlelight Roast Duck Dinner
Saturday, January 20, 2018, 5 p.m.
Menu: soup, half a roast duck, potato dumplings,
sweet and sour red cabbage, and dessert.
Limited seating. \$23/person. Cash bar.
Prepaid reservations by January 14: 952-941-0426.

Sokol Minnesota is a proud sponsor of the year-long Czech and Slovak celebration in 2018
www.CzechSlovakCentury.org