

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**March Slovo articles**  
due February 1

**Friendly Friday  
Evenings Social**  
Friday, February 9, 7 p.m.

**Flavors of Slovakia  
Dinner**  
Sunday, March 10  
(info adjacent)

**Sokol Gift Shop**  
open during events  
and by appointment  
(info on page 11)

**Spring  
Breakfast, Craft, and  
Koláče Bake Sale,**  
Sunday, March 24  
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Use this QR code  
to sokolmn.org to follow  
all of our activities,  
events, and classes!

- Dinners
- Czech and Slovak Language Lessons
- Folk Dancing
- Sokol Gymnasts



*Flavors  
of  
Slovakia Dinner*  
*Sunday, March 10*

**20  
24**

**serving 12:30p.m. ( doors open 12n )  
\$30 per person**

**Reserve by March 3**

**Payment: Prepay by reserving online:  
credit/debit card or PayPal go to  
www.sokolmn.org/cc/**

**or**

**if reserving and paying by check  
Voice/text: 651-210-0401**

**MENU:**

**Soup,  
Traditional Slovak  
Bryndzové halušky**  
(potato dumplings, bryndza cheese, bacon),  
**holubky** (cabbage roll),  
**dessert, coffee.**  
**Wine and beer for sale.**

**Hosted by  
Czech and Slovak  
Sokol Minnesota  
383 Michigan St.  
Saint Paul, MN**



## Prezidentčin komentář/President's Notes by Lucy Rose

Happy New Year, fellow Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota members and friends! I hope your holidays were filled with joy and relaxation. I am grateful for the relatively mild winter we have had so far, and I am happy the days are getting ever so slightly longer now. With the start of the new year, I am excited to begin my term as president of Sokol Minnesota. Many thanks to our outgoing president, Cinnamon Whaley, for her hard work and dedication to our organization! Cinnamon has served our community over the years in various roles on the Board of Directors, as well as committee chair for various events, editor of the *Slovo* newsletter, and webmaster of sokolmn.org. I hope you will join me in thanking her and all of our members who graciously volunteer their time to bring us a mixture of traditional Sokol Minnesota programs and new offerings for our membership and community.



Lucy Brudnak Rose

Our volunteers are busy preparing many exciting programs and events for you to take advantage of in 2024, including girl's and boy's gymnastics, folk dancing, regular classes in Czech or Slovak language, bicycling, Kung Fu and Tai Chi classes, music, literature, and singing. In addition to these weekly or monthly programs, I am also excited about the Czech baking class that will be offered in mid-July, our annual Czech & Slovak Festival in late September, the Sokol Minnesota Youth Links' Trunks with Treats Halloween event, and the Friendly Friday get-togethers that some of our members organize at the C.S.P.S. Hall each month to socialize, build community, and learn Czech and American games.

If you are interested in any of these events or programs, or you would just like to learn more about the types of activities offered by Sokol Minnesota throughout the year, an easy way to stay informed, in addition to ads in the *Slovo*, is through our website, [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org). Check out the Events and Classes tabs, and the Hall Calendar (under the "C.S.P.S. Hall" tab) that provides the day and time of everything that is scheduled. New programs are added all the time, so be sure to check the calendar often! Additional great sources of information about our upcoming activities are the Spring (accompanying this issue) and Fall Postcards and the E-blast in your email inbox.

If your New Year's resolution is to put your unique talents and skills to use for any of the above or new activities, let us know that you would like to help! You can email me directly at [president@sokolmn.org](mailto:president@sokolmn.org) and I will gladly help you find a way to share your talents with our community.

I am looking forward to everything our organization has to offer in 2024 and beyond, and I am especially excited to become friends with many of our members whom I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting. Thank you for your continued membership or interest in Sokol Minnesota, and please do not be shy about introducing yourself the next time you see me at the Hall! I hope some of the programs our wonderful volunteers are organizing for you this year will be of interest, and I hope you will join us for those that interest you. Together, let us continue to strengthen our community, gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of Czech and Slovak heritage, and motivate one another to maintain a "Sound Mind in a Sound Body"!

*Nazdar!*

### Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2023 BOD (Board of Directors)

#### President

Lucy Brudnak Rose

#### Vice President

Fred Simon

#### Recording Secretary

Theresa Hudachek

#### Corresponding Secretary

Bonnie Simon

#### Treasurer

Open

#### Sergeant at Arms

Silvia Magana

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Markéta Pálková

Don Haselbauer

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Joyce Tesarek, Chair

#### Activities Director

Jean Draheim

#### Educational Director

Sally Lieberman

#### Rental Committee

Gary Zweber, Chair

#### Publicity Director

Brittany Stepan

#### Board of Instructors

Women's and Men's

Physical Director

Jason Brozovich

#### Building and Property

Trustees Committee

Bob Kotek, Chair

#### Gaming Manager

Ed Hamernik

Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

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

**CZECH & SLOVAK  
FESTIVAL**

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Save the date!  
**35th Annual Czech & Slovak Festival  
Sunday, September 29, 2024**

If you have ideas for the festival,  
or would like to help with planning, contact  
[Festival@sokolmn.org](mailto:Festival@sokolmn.org)

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs for children, teens, and adults.

Information on our programs, calendar of events, membership, C.S.P.S. Hall rentals, and gift shop, plus e-addresses for our board, program directors, volunteer staff, and the Czech Honorary Consul, as well as *Slovo* past issues, are available at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) or [www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota](https://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)





## Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors' Election By Joyce Tesarek

At the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Annual Meeting on Friday, November 17, the election of new and continuing Board of Directors members was held. Each year, half the board is up for election/re-election. Elected to serve for the next two years are President Lucy Brudnak Rose, Vice President Fred Simon, Recording Secretary Theresa Hudachek, Corresponding Secretary Bonnie Simon, Sergeant at Arms Silvia Magana, Activities Director Jean Draheim, Men's and Women's Physical Director Jason Brozovich, Gaming Chair Ed Hamernik, Publicity Director Brittany Stepan, and Member at Large Don Haselbauer.



2024 Board of Directors: Front Row, L-R: President Lucy Rose, Sergeant at Arms Silvia Magana, Gaming Manager Ed Hamernik, Building and Property Trustees Committee Chair Bob Kotek, Educational Director Sally Lieberman. Back Row: Rental Committee Chair Gary Zweber, Vice President Fred Simon, Recording Secretary Theresa Hudachek, Budget and Finance Committee Chair Joyce Tesarek, Member at Large Markéta Resong, Membership Director Steve Ernest, Member at Large Don Haselbauer. Not shown: Men's and Women's Physical Director Jason Brozovich, Activities Director Jean Draheim, Corresponding Secretary Bonnie Simon, Publicity Director Brittany Stepan.

## Holiday Breakfast and Craft / *Koláče* Sale By Mary Cahill



On November 19, 2023, an unusually sunny, warm fall day, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's smiling volunteers served delicious, all-you-can-eat buttermilk pancakes at our Holiday Breakfast and Craft / *Koláče* Sale.

Ed Hamernik's "special batter" got the usual rave reviews. For this second pancake breakfast after the COVID hiatus, we served nearly 100 hungry customers.

It was great to see members, neighbors, and friends of friends reconnect. Attendees also purchased *koláče* and Bob Kostichka's famous caramel corn from the bake sale, and shopped at the vendors' tables, where beautiful hand-crafted items and yummy holiday breads and cookies, as well as canned goods, were available.

Thank you to all who came and supported this fundraiser, we appreciate you.

Income after expenses was approximately \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

**SPRING  
Breakfast,  
Craft, and  
*Koláče*  
Bake Sale  
Sunday,  
March 24**

1. Fall Breakfast and Craft / *Koláče* sale
2. Lucy Brudnak Rose and Mary Cahill
3. Ed Hamernik with his "special batter"
4. James Bradford, Bob Kostichka, Ed Hamernik, Luboš Mareš, and Breakfast guest in spotlight.



**Sokol Minnesota thanks the following volunteers,** whose time and hard work make events like this possible:  
 Aaron Armstrong, Tom Aubrecht, James Bradford,  
 Jason Brozovich, Dennis Cahill, Mary Cahill, Roger Green,  
 Glynis Grostephan, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer,  
 Katie Haselbauer, Bob Kostichka, Savanna Larson,  
 Luboš Mareš, Doreen McKenney, Lucy Rose, Sylvie Rose,  
 Joan Sedlacek, Steve Shimer, Joyce Tesarek,  
 Tereza Treanor, Bryan Wyberg.



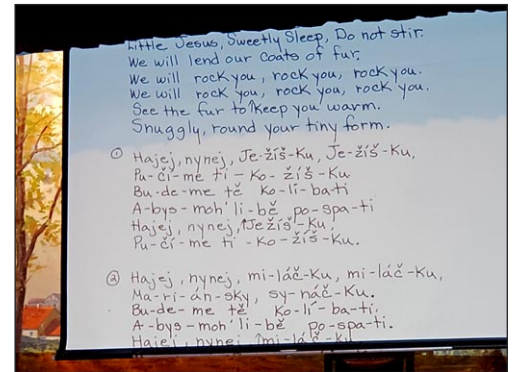
# Sokol Minnesota Children's Holiday Party By Louise Wessinger



This year our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota dance children celebrated the holidays on Friday evening, December 8, with parents, grandparents, and fellow Sokol Minnesota members.

The audience was welcomed by Sokol Minnesota President Lucy Rose, Dance Director Louise Wessinger, and Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera.

The program began with the Sokol Minnesota Singers leading everyone in the singing of *koledy* (Christmas carols).



A Christmas *koledy*

The dance program began with our *Taneční Mládež* (youngest dancers), who were helped by several of the teen dancers in presenting some of their favorite dances. The *Taneční Mládež* continued the program, followed by the teen dancers, who were proud to present two newer dances.

One dance, traditionally done by girls called *Holka modroolka*, had two of the boys included. Then *Pod sable*, traditionally a young men's dance, was done by the girls as well. Our dancing ended with our traditional *Tancuj, tancuj*.

By popular demand, the famous Candy Cane Medley was performed by the children.

Then it was time for the highlight of the evening, the visit of *Svatý Mikuláš*, along with a lovely *anděl* (angel) and trickster *čert* (devil). Each child went home with an overflowing bag of candies, games, and activities, plus a chocolate-filled Advent calendar.



*Svatý Mikuláš*, *anděl* (angel), and *čert* (devil) with two good children.



## Special thanks to:

The St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, who did the Holiday decorations;  
 Dawn Bulera and her staff for setup of furniture, food and cleanup;  
 Richard Sargent for audiovisuals;  
 Sokol Minnesota Singers, Don Haselbauer, director and piano player;  
 Jason Brozovich and Dave and Darnell Stepan for their help;  
 Glynis Grostephan, *Svatý Mikuláš* main helper, who supplied the goodie bags;  
 Doreen McKenney, for *Slovo* ads and posters and keeping the Gift Shop open;  
 and, of course, to all the parents who see to getting the dancers to practice, make sure they have clean *kroje*, and cheer the children on!

1. Dance Director Louise Wessinger addressing the attendees.

3. *Taneční* Teens

2. *Taneční Mládež* joined by *Taneční* Teens

4. Candy Cane Medley



## Vánočka and Makovka Baking Fundraiser Gathering By Jitka Sebek



Some activities are dear to our hearts and that is why Renata Scholtz asked her friends to join her again in baking *vánočka* and *makovka*.

Despite the busy Advent time, when homes are filled with the scent of fragrant Christmas cookies, shimmer with Christmas tree lights, and dance with Christmas music, the fond memories of the yearly fundraiser uplifted all of them to meet at the C.S.P.S. Hall and bake together.

With Míša Giancarlo Kotek's professional help, it was more joy than stress to braid, bake, and festively package the delicious sweet breads for the holiday tables at both the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities and Sokol Minnesota *Svatý Mikuláš* (Saint Nicholas) Celebrations. Many thankful and happy notes were received from the customers and over \$650 was raised.

L-R: Zuzana Bracknell, Renáta Scholz, Katarina Bila, Alena Youngberg, Adriana Wenberg, Dáša Rosenthal.  
Not pictured: Míša Giancarlo Kotek (see facebook.com/czech.baker.mn).

## Škola mikulášská besídka (School's St. Nicholas Celebration)

The Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities *Mikulášská besídka* (Saint Nicholas Celebration) was held at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Saturday, December 9, 2023.



1. *Škola* students enjoyed making decorated jingle bell shakers to accompany the caroling.  
2. *Škola* students joined SlovCzech band members Sara Jeddelloh (violin, standing), Jožo Klobušník (concertina, seated), and Petr Bachan (guitar, standing) in accompanying the singing. Join us next year!



3. Each student met with *Mikuláš*, *anděl* (angel), and *čert* (devil) listening to some very specific (magic) comments or praises from *Mikuláš* and promising to be good the whole next year.  
4. Children grow up reading stories and enjoying the enchanted world of princesses, devils, or water sprites, so meeting some of them in person is very special and perhaps a bit scary, too. What a relief when the magic keeps growing through holiday treats that can be found only in Europe.



5. Families and *Škola* friends look forward to every *Mikulášská besídka* when children must face *Mikuláš*, brave the *čert's* presence and then receive small gifts from the gentle hands of *anděl*.  
6. It is not unusual for families to come from far away and bring even teen children; the tradition, potluck dinner, lovely music, and chatting are endless creating fond memories.

Happy New Year!



## Montgomery's 2nd Annual Svatý Mikuláš Celebration By Jean Keogh



St. Nicholas (*Svatý Mikuláš*),  
Angel (*Anděl*), and devil  
(*d'ábel*)



Sokol Minnesota Children's  
Dance group

Montgomery held its 2nd Annual *Svatý Mikuláš* Celebration on Sunday, December 3, 2023. There were over 200 in attendance.

St. Nicholas (*Svatý Mikuláš*), the Angel (*Anděl*), and the devil (*d'ábel*) greeted the children attending, finding them all to have been very good during the past year, and giving them treats for their self-decorated bags.

Colton Tupy and Gary Pikal, both members of the Czech Area Concertina Club, did an amazing job mixing holiday tunes with Czech old-tyme music. The St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, along with the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Children's Dance group, entertained with many traditional Czech and Slovak dance numbers. The Sokol Minnesota Children also did a short presentation highlighting some of the Czech and Slovak Christmas traditions. Special appearances by the Most Holy Redeemer Catholic School Singing Angels, under the direction of Mrs. Christine Trcka, and Christmas carols on violin by Oliva Hafertepe, Bella Hafertepe, and Cassie Westerman, added special holiday touches to the event.



St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers

Door prize drawings took place during the event for both children and adults. Make-and-take crafts featured hedgehog ornaments, mushrooms, and Czech-bead icicles. The Czech Christmas Market vendors offered Czech merchandise and baked goodies; thanks to Arts & Heritage Center, Czech Heritage Club, Jean Draheim, Doreen McKenney, and Czech Sis Kitchen.

Special guest was M. L. Kucera, Honorary Consul for the Czech Republic in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota. She had information about the Czech Republic available for all the visitors to this event.

Special thanks to all our great sponsors who made this event so successful with their generous donations. They are KCHK Radio, New Prague Times/Montgomery Messenger, Rustic Farmer/Revival on Main, Miss Czech-Slovak MN Pageant, Montgomery Arts & Heritage Center, Czech Heritage Club, Veseli Area Lions, Montgomery Area Community Club, First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association Insurance/Milton Trnka, CornerStone State Bank of Montgomery, Frandsen Bank & Trust of Montgomery, Montgomery Community Foundation, Charlie Sticha Insurance Agency, Montgomery Area Lions, White Front Saloon, Montgomery Knights of Columbus Council 1573, and Pla Mor Lanes.

A huge thank you to all who attended, volunteered, or donated; all helped us make this an annual Christmas event highlighting our Czech heritage and culture.

Please save the dates and plan to join us in Montgomery for these upcoming Czech events:

Masopust on February 18, 2024  
(one week later due to Superbowl);

Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Pageant on April 13, 2024;  
and May Day on May 5, 2024.

MONTGOMERY'S 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL

**Masopust 2024**

The Czech Mardi Gras

**February 18, 2024**



209/213 First Street South  
Montgomery MN 56069

**Noon to 4:00 PM**

Doors Open at 11:30 AM

Adults - \$5, Children under age 15 - Free



MUSIC BY  
**George's Concertina  
Band**

Featuring the Adult  
**St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers**

**Costume Ball** (*costumes encouraged*)

**Prizes Awarded**

**Silent Auction 12:30 - 3:30 PM**

**King Coronation**

**Czech Bakery**

**Czech Food Available 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM**

**Pork & Dumplings, Vornacka, Czech Hotdogs**

**Thank you Sponsors!!**





### Join the E-blast List

Receive emails with all of Sokol's Latest News!

Send your email address to [publicity@sokolmn.org](mailto:publicity@sokolmn.org)

## Friendly Friday Evenings Continue!

Come join the fun at the C.S.P.S. Hall on second Fridays of the month at 7 p.m.

Mark your calendar to attend the next Friendly Friday Evenings February 9 and March 8

The Hall is open for members and friends to gather, visit, and enjoy snacks and games.

A group is learning *mariaš*, a Czech card game (similar to pinochle but with fun Czech cards).

Beginners are welcome.

Join us and bring some friends to learn the game, or bring a favorite game.

## 26th Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp

By Louise Wessinger and Doreen McKenney

The 26th Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp will take place at the C.S.P.S. Hall Monday, June 17, to Friday, June 21, 2024. The camp theme this year is *Fairs and Puppetry*. Small groups will make ethnic foods, have Czech language lessons, create wonderful crafts, and enjoy learning gymnastics, dancing, and singing. We also will have many small group choice activities as well as large group activities in the afternoons, including special guests and large group presentations.

The camp is for children ages 6 to 14 years old. Campers arrive by 8:30 a.m. and are picked up at 3:30 p.m.

Adult and teen volunteers are a key part of camp. Volunteers use their talents to lead or help with crafts, cooking, music, and other responsibilities. Teen volunteer junior leaders will receive service hours; only eight teen junior leaders will be selected.

Be sure to register by May 1, 2024, to qualify for the Early-bird discount. All camp registration materials must be received by June 1, 2024. Our culture camp has always been a very popular activity. The program is limited to 32 campers, so get registrations sent in so your campers will not be disappointed.

Registration materials for campers, junior leaders, and adult volunteers, can be downloaded at: [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

It will be a lively week for campers, filled with lots of great activities. We hope to see you at camp in June! If you have questions, please call Louise at 651-271-3601 or email [louisewessinger@msn.com](mailto:louisewessinger@msn.com)

# Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp

June 17-21 2024



# FAIRS and Puppetry

## 26th annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp June 17-21, 2024

C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul

Register by May 1 to qualify for the Early-Bird discount. All camp registration materials must be received by June 1. Registration materials for campers ages 6 to 14 and adult volunteers, can be downloaded at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)

Full refund if camp needs to be postponed. Questions? Contact: Louise Wessinger 651-271-3601



## Czech Language and Culture in Poděbrady 2023

By Diane Bell

Since childhood, I have had strong emotions connected with hearing the Czech language spoken. Growing up, I would listen to my grandfather and my mother converse in Czech, always fascinated by the melodious sound, lilting rhythm, and sweet-sounding cadence. I loved the way my grandfather would say my name, Di-ahn, with the emphasis on the first syllable, followed by a soft 'a' in the second syllable. I always yearned to reproduce those sounds, as they warmed my heart with memories of my beloved Czech grandfather.

Through the generosity of the government of Czechia, I was fortunate to receive a scholarship to attend a four-week Czechs Abroad language and culture program this past summer (2023) in Poděbrady, Czechia. It was a delightful time in this spa town, just east of Prague. Poděbrady is quiet and charming, with a lush green promenade filled with people strolling. The pace was relaxed and welcoming. Our classes were in the Poděbrady chateau, along the Labe river. We stayed in dormitories about a 15-minute walk away. There were 70 students of all ages and they were literally from around the world.

Each morning we had small group language instruction. Language instruction was in Czech, with only a few hints in English. We had workbooks and took notes in Czech from day one. It was a bit of an academic and culture shock to my brain. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking in Czech with so many new words and declinations - I thought my head would burst! Luckily, I had a delightful and extremely helpful roommate Sonja, from Serbia who corrected my notes and reviewed the day's lessons with me each evening. *Díky Bohu* (Thank God)!

Culture lectures or activities took place in the afternoon. Since there were so many Spanish-speaking students, the culture lectures were translated from Czech to both English and Spanish. Culture instruction included field trips to the Bohemia Glass Factory located right in Poděbrady, Radio Prague, Terezín, Kutná Hora, Sedlec Ossuary (the Bone Church), a *skanzen* (open-air museum) in Přerov nad Labem, the confluence of the Elbe and Vltava rivers in Mělník, and the Devil heads sculptures in Želízky.



Poděbrady 2023 students from around the world, teachers, and program administrators

On free weekends I enjoyed wine festivals along the promenade and was also able to visit cousins in South Bohemia. It was especially memorable to meet a cousin, Vaclav, and his family. He is a delightful 18-year-old, who had recently contacted my mother Libby Rybnicek Imbrone in search of Czech relatives in the United States. He is a descendant of my grandfather's sister, a branch of the family we had not had contact with previously.

Overall, it was a positively amazing experience! I am more confident in my overall understanding of the Czech language and culture, and have an enriched respect for both. I made many new Czech friends with whom I shared family emigration stories. I was impressed by the multitude of stories and the diversity of locations to which their families had emigrated, and yet they all held fast to their Czech roots. How wonderful that we could all come together in Poděbrady to learn and experience firsthand more about the Czech language and culture. Many thanks to the government of Czechia for the opportunity. Czechs are amazing people!

I ❤️ Czech language and culture camp!

### Summer Language Study in the Czech Republic: Programs and Scholarships Online Informational Meeting Monday, February 5, 2024 - 7 p.m.

Learn about opportunities for a month of study in the Czech Republic this summer, including language classes, cultural activities, day trips, and more. Details will be provided on how to apply for generous scholarships to support your studies. Speakers include Ondřej Pometlo, Deputy Consul General at the Czech Consulate in Chicago, and recent participants in the Czechs Abroad Program in Poděbrady and the Summer School of Slavonic Studies in Prague.

Visit this page prior to the meeting for the Zoom link:  
[www.sokolmn.org/czech-language-institute-in-podebrady/](http://www.sokolmn.org/czech-language-institute-in-podebrady/)  
Questions? Email [education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org)

### June 30 to July 5, 2024 in Prague 2024 XVII All Sokol *Slet*

Sokols from around the world  
will flock to Prague  
for the XVII All Sokol *Slet*  
to be held from June 30 to July 5, 2024.

Tours are being planned.  
Watch the *Slovo* for more information or  
contact [joan@sokolmn.org](mailto:joan@sokolmn.org)  
See photos of the past *Slet* events at  
[www.slet2024.cz/galerie](http://www.slet2024.cz/galerie)

## My Month of Language Study in Prague By Sally Lieberman

Last summer, I finally acted on a long-held intention and set off for a month of language study in the Czech Republic. My program, the Summer School of Slavonic Studies (LŠSS), took place at Charles University in central Prague from mid-July to mid-August. It was a remarkable experience, and one I can enthusiastically recommend to others with an interest in learning the Czech language.

There were 130 students enrolled in the program, from over thirty countries. It was exciting to attend the Orientation and to quickly become acquainted with students from all over the world. Our reasons for wanting to learn Czech were many and varied, as were our proficiency levels—from complete beginner to near-native! I had feared I would be the oldest person on the program by far, but there was actually a wide range of ages, from college students to other retirees like myself. Over the course of the program, it was fun to reconnect with these new friends from Orientation when we randomly found ourselves together at an activity or on an outing.

I was placed in an intermediate-level class. The placements were determined based on an online test we took prior to the start of the program and an interview during Orientation. We had absolutely amazing teachers! Professionally trained in language pedagogy, they conducted class entirely in Czech and used a variety of learning activities to keep things lively and fun.

We were in class every day from 9:00 to 1:20, with breaks. About a third of the time was devoted to conversation on socially significant topics, such as civic participation, changing forms of communication and media, and customs regarding polite behavior.

The small group, or *skupina*, with whom I spent my mornings were from Poland, Japan, Germany (including Lusatia, where the native Sorbian language is quite close to Czech), Ukraine, Portugal, and the United States. One of the best parts of the whole experience was getting to know each other and our diverse cultures—while speaking only Czech!

My conversational Czech lagged behind my classmates, but, thanks to my many years of language classes at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, I was able to hold my own. I was surprised to find that my reading vocabulary and knowledge of Czech grammar even gave me a boost at times (thank you, Blanka Brichta and Renáta Tichá)!

In the afternoons, evenings, and on weekends, there was a rich program of optional activities to deepen our knowledge of Czech



Sally's LŠSS Intermediate Czech group on their last day, enjoying the Prague cafe scene.

language and culture. I went on several museum tours, attended a movie night, and went on weekend outings to Karlštejn Castle and to a Bronze Age Celtic archeological site. The majority of students on the program lived at the Kajetánka Dormitory, a short bus/metro ride from the Faculty of Arts building where our classes were held. To make sure I got the rest I needed, I elected to rent a small apartment for the month instead of living in the dormitory. The peace and quiet made it easy to study, but if I were to do a similar program in the future, I would probably choose the dormitory in order to be more fully immersed in the experience.

As I write this essay, although I have heard from my teachers, I still know very little about how they, and the program's staff, were affected by the mass shooting that occurred on December 21 at the Faculty of Arts building. I would like to close with a deeply felt wish for their safety and peace of mind.



# KIDS COLD OUTSIDE?

**COME INDOORS OUT OF THE COLD  
AND GET ACTIVE WITH  
GYMNASTICS AT THE C.S.P.S. HALL!**

## Gymnastics Classes Ongoing and Available

Gymnastics classes  
for boys and girls  
continue through winter!

Spots are still available.  
No experience necessary!

[sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/sokol\\_fitness/](http://sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/sokol_fitness/)





## Sokol Minnesota Singers at Lexington Landing

The Sokol Minnesota Singers performed holiday songs at Lexington Landing in Saint Paul on December 5.

(L-R) Seated: Marlene Hinshaw, Diane Bell, and Diane's mother Libby Imbrone (resident).

Middle row: Dave Stepan, Ed Hamernik, Ann Janda, Pam Langworthy, and Louise Wessinger.

Back Row: Bob Kostichka, John Topic, Ken Janda, Richard Sargent, and Director Don Haselbauer.

Not Pictured: Doreen McKenney.

## Sokol Minnesota to Offer Bilingual Czech College Courses for Adults 50+ or with Disabilities

By Sally Lieberman and Jitka Sebek

Starting this February, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota will be a Consultation Center, or host site, for a highly regarded remote learning Czech academic program that offers university courses to older adults and people with disabilities. The Virtual University for the Third Age (*VU3V, Virtuální univerzita třetího věku*), administered by the Faculty of Economics and Management of the Czech University of Life Sciences (CZU) in Prague, enrolls over 7,000 students per semester at 330 host sites in the Czech Republic. The program provides opportunities for lifelong learning and, most importantly, meetings and events where participants with common interests may connect and socialize.

A new agreement, signed in November 2023, expands the innovative Virtual University for the Third Age program to North America. The coordinating institution for North America is the T. G. Masaryk Czech School in Cicero, Illinois. Sokol Minnesota, in partnership with Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, has accepted an invitation to participate as a Consultation Center in the program's North American debut. As a Consultation Center, we will offer select VU3V courses and will provide optional meetings and activities for course participants in the Twin Cities area.

The courses offered to North Americans will be bilingual and appropriate for Czech or English speakers age 50+ or with disabilities. A unique goal of this expansion is to enable Czech émigrés to have learning experiences in their native language and to strengthen their connections to their homeland. By offering the courses in bilingual format, the program achieves the additional goal of opening these learning experiences to English speakers with an interest in Czech culture.



On Tuesday, November 21, Petr Sklenička (center, left), the Rector of the Czech University of Life Sciences in Prague, along with T. G. Masaryk Czech School Vice President Klára Moldová (center, right), signed a memorandum to extend the VU3V program to students in the United States.

For Spring semester 2024, Sokol Minnesota will offer "The Remarkable World of Mushrooms" (*Pozoruhodný svět hub*). This university course consists of six video lectures (in Czech with English subtitles) that may be watched from anywhere, combined with an optional local program of activities, culminating in an expert-led mushroom hunt at a Twin Cities location. The cost per person is \$97. Sokol Minnesota members, friends, and family are encouraged to sign up together and enjoy a common learning experience!

For more information, and to register, please visit [www.sokolmn.org/new-university-courses-from-the-czech-republic-for-adults-50/](http://www.sokolmn.org/new-university-courses-from-the-czech-republic-for-adults-50/) To take full advantage of the local activities, please register by February 19.

## Tai Chi and Kung Fu

at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Kung Fu: Wednesdays 6-7 p.m.

Tai Chi: Wednesdays 7-8 p.m.

The classes at Sokol Minnesota's  
C.S.P.S. Hall are continuous,  
so you can join at any time!

Fee: \$40/month.

Family discounts are available.

More information at:

[AmerikanKungFuNorth@gmail.com](mailto:AmerikanKungFuNorth@gmail.com)


## Outdoor Spring Cleanup C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul MN

Saturday  
April 20, 2024  
10-11 a.m.

Sokol Minnesota Youth Link teens invite  
Sokol families of all ages to join them  
as they pick up litter around  
the C.S.P.S. Hall grounds.

Interested in volunteering with the clean up  
contact: [youths@sokolmn.org](mailto:youths@sokolmn.org)  
or teens sign up with your class instructor.

Gloves and  bags will be provided

## January - March 2024

### Czech and Slovak Gift Shop Hours

385 Michigan Street, Saint Paul MN (street entrance)



- Saturday, January 20, 3-5 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 6, 9-10 a.m.
- Sunday, March 24, 10a.m.- 1p.m. (second floor during the Spring Breakfast Craft and Koláč Bake Sale).
- Appointment: [giftshop@sokolmn.org](mailto:giftshop@sokolmn.org)

čá ch éě  
d' úz  
řř t' dž  
óó

### Czech and Slovak Language Lessons at Sokol Minnesota

*Máš pivo (do you have beer)?*

*Oh, it looks like you already  
know some Czech!*

**Come join us to learn more.**

Check the website [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)  
for the schedule as well as for online  
and in person options.

Questions: [education@sokolmn.org](mailto:education@sokolmn.org)



## MEMBER NEWS

### Have You Renewed Your Membership for 2024?

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2024 membership renewal letters were sent in mid-December.

If you did not receive yours, please contact us at [membership@sokolmn.org](mailto:membership@sokolmn.org) or the address below.

If you have not yet renewed for 2024, please do so now to stay connected to all our activities and to keep receiving the *Slovo* newsletter.

Regular membership rates are \$60 for one person, \$100 for a couple/two adults at the same address.

Senior membership rates are \$50 for one person, \$90 for a couple/two seniors at the same address.

Seniors are individuals who are 65 and older.

**You may renew your membership in one of two ways.**

- The first way to renew is to go online, where you can update your contact information and pay your dues via PayPal.

To renew online, go to this web page:  
[www.sokolmn.org/membership](http://www.sokolmn.org/membership).

You do not need to have a PayPal account to pay through PayPal.

- The second way to renew is by mail.

To renew by mail, send a check made out to

“Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota”  
to this address:

**Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota  
4716 17th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407**

Thank you, members, for being part of our community!

Your membership dollars not only support our activities and the maintenance of our historic C.S.P.S. Hall, but also connect us with national and international programs.

Your participation in our events and activities,  
in person or in spirit, is invaluable.

We are looking forward to another exciting year in 2024!

### Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Member By Steve Ernest

One new members was accepted at the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota November Board of Directors meeting.

**Sheila Surrena** from Minnetonka. She has interests in films & theater, music & dances, history & genealogy, event help in the kitchen, staffing booths, serving meals, language classes, cooking classes, crafting classes, and other Sokol Minnesota activities. She is currently researching dual citizenship with Slovakia.

We welcome you to Sokol Minnesota!

## Join Sokol Minnesota Singers

Czech & Slovak  
songs are sung at  
the C.S.P.S. Hall  
the first and third

Tuesday of the month  
from 10 a.m. -12N

383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN

Special piano accompaniment  
by Don Haselbauer

Questions: [activities@sokolmn.org](mailto:activities@sokolmn.org)



### Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

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

#### GENERAL FUND

**Under \$99:** Jean Curtis-Neitz (in memory of Millie Osman),  
Cynthia McArthur.

**\$100 - \$499:** Peg Anderson and Gary Heyn, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (from *Mikuláš* party),  
Roger Green, George Hoffman, Richard Sargent,  
Terry Shima, Dave Stepan, Alan Vanasek, Bryan Wyberg (in memory of Ken and Sharon Wyberg).

**\$1000 - \$9999:** Joseph Gindele (author of family memoir Yorkville Twins, in honor of his Czech mother),  
Don and Katie Haselbauer, Michaela Giancarlo Kotek (CVS Health Foundation Volunteer Challenge Grant in recognition of her volunteering).

#### IN KIND DONATION

Mary Jo Chlebecek (*kroj*).

**TOTAL \$10,565**

**NOTE:** Individuals donating every month have their total donation reported once per year, in the combined December/January *Slovo*.

## Highlights of the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors November 2023 Meeting

By Tom Aubrecht from Acting Recording Secretary Joyce Tesarek's Minutes

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors November 17, 2023, meeting was called to order by President Cinnamon Whaley at 5:30 p.m.

The *Holubica* Slovak Dancers' request for a formal relationship with Sokol Minnesota was discussed again and it was approved, with these conditions:

The C.S.P.S. Hall can be available for the group through May 31, 2024, at no charge on specified Sunday mornings until noon, to allow time for the Hall to be set up for Sunday afternoon rentals.

We will guarantee at least two Sundays per month.

Rehearsals will be scheduled around Sokol Minnesota Sunday events.

Scheduling will be done through Activities Director Jean Draheim, who is in charge of the Hall Calendar.

Dancers are expected to join Sokol Minnesota and volunteer with our events, as they discussed.

It was also decided that Sokol Minnesota Board will develop a written protocol for affiliating with internal and external groups requesting free or discounted Hall usage.

This may be done at a special BOD meeting in January.

The protocol will define "affiliation." The agreement with the *Holubica* dancers will be reviewed using the protocol.

The January 14 potluck at the Hall is to include all present and past board members.

Membership Director Steve Ernest presented one application for membership, which was approved. Sokol Minnesota membership is now 309.

Gaming Manager Ed Hamernik presented requests for approval. The December Gaming Expense Budget was approved.

The October Actual Operation Summary was approved. Activities Director Jean Draheim noted that finalizing chairs for 2024 events is necessary for the Spring Postcard. Additional committee reports were given at the Annual Membership Meeting following the Monthly Meeting.

**Hey kids!  
Come join me, Ms. Louise,  
after the Holiday break  
for fun-filled  
Saturday mornings at  
the C.S.P.S. Hall  
with Czech and Slovak  
dancing !**



**Contact  
Louise Wessinger at 651-271-3601**

### **Slovo Publication Information and Committees**

The *Slovo* is published ten times per year by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 W. Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102. Phone: 651-290-0542.

Sokol Minnesota members receive the *Slovo* with their membership.

**To receive your *Slovo* in color via email instead of the black and white mail version, contact [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)**

A subscription to the *Slovo* is available for \$15 annually.

For a subscription, please include name, address, phone number, email address and a \$15 check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and mail to *Slovo* at the above address.

The *Slovo* staff welcomes submissions. The copy deadline for each issue is the first day of the prior month. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)

Advertising in the *Slovo* is available. Please email [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org) for information on due dates and rates.

Moving or temporarily away: Please notify us via email or USPS mail of your change of address to make sure you continue to receive the *Slovo*.

The *Slovo* is bulk mailed and non-deliverable copies are not forwarded or held by the Post Office. Non-delivered copies are returned to Sokol Minnesota and they are billed to us at the first-class mail rate.

For this reason, we will not send additional issues until we have a current, correct mailing address on record for you.

Member volunteer *Slovo* staff:

Co-Managing Editors: Tom Aubrecht, Mary Cahill, and Joyce Tesarek.

Copy Editor: Tom Aubrecht.

Production Layout: Mary Kucera.

Regular Contributors: Lucy Brudnak Rose, Steve Ernest, Theresa Hudachek, M. L. Kucera.

Photographer: Martina Gurgel and Joyce Tesarek.

Sokol Minnesota Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney (page 1, 7, 9, 11).

Mailing and email Lists: Penny and Tom Tesarek.

Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

Advisors: Christy Banks, Arlene Hamernik, M. L. Kucera, and Jitka Sebek.

Additional contributors to this issue: Tom Aubrecht, Jason Brozovich, Mary Cahill, Jean Keogh, Sally Lieberman, Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, Jitka Sebek, Dave Stepan, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, and Gwen Willems.

Additional photographs, ads, or illustrations in this issue (not already noted) provided by: Diane Bell, Colleen Cahill, Martina Gurgel, Gym Team, Jean Keogh, Miša Giancarlo Kotek, ally Lieberman, Luboš Mareš, Doreen McKenney, Jitka Sebek, Sokol Minnesota Youth Link Committee, Katerina Svensson, Joyce Tesarek, Cinnamon Whaley, and Gwen Willems.

**More information at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**



*Prague Spring* by Simon Mawer. Other Press: New York and Little, Brown: London, 400 pages; 2018. Available at libraries and bookstores.

*Prague Spring* is an exceptionally well-written historical novel by Simon Mawer, a best-selling, English-born author. Many of his fourteen books received or were short-listed for awards. They include *Chimera* (1989), *Mendel's Dwarf* (1997), *The Fall* (2003), *The Glass Room* (2009), *Tightrope* (2015), and his latest, *Ancestry* (2022).

*Prague Spring* is extraordinarily intelligent and poignant, with detailed storylines of two couples intricately intertwined with fragments of European history. The couples—a British diplomat (Sam) posted in Czechoslovakia and his student and journalist girlfriend (Lenka), and two hitch-hiking students from England (Oxford science student James and English major Eleanor)—end up in Prague in August 1968 when Soviet forces invaded to squelch the freedoms of the Prague Spring. As Lenka told Sam, “All we want is to continue with free expression. Freedom to say what the hell we please and do what the hell we please. Will they [members of the Soviet Politburo] let us?”

The novel raises the question of who knew the invasion was coming and could anyone do anything to stop it? Sam and Lenka see Soviet troops in the countryside, but ultimately Sam only feels free to help a musician escape Czechoslovakia hidden under a car seat. Was Alexander Dubček, First Secretary of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, well-meaning or naïve? Lenka claimed, “He was to blame [for the mistreatment of her father by the communists]. They were all to blame. Dubček himself believed in the whole system. He used to think that Stalin was wonderful, the father of all working people.” In contrast, Sam told her, “But he’s a man of goodwill, you know that. He only wants things to change.”

Sam got a phone call in the middle of the night to let him know the Red Army had taken over the Prague airport. He turned on the radio to hear that “*On Tuesday, August 20, 1968, at approximately 11 p.m. the armies of the Soviet Union, the Polish People’s Republic, the Hungarian People’s Republic, and the Bulgarian People’s Republic crossed—*” and then the radio went silent. In the next scenes set in Prague, Mawer conveys the horrifying feeling of the chaos that ensued when Soviet troops with tanks and guns took over.

An impressive aspect of the book is how Mawer reminds readers of important episodes of Czech history, touching on Jan Masaryk, Milada Horáková, the Lenin statue, Franz Kafka, and Bohumil Hrabal. Did Minister Jan Masaryk, the son of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, the first president of the independent Czechoslovakia, fall or was he pushed in March 1948 from his second-floor rooms onto the

courtyard of the Černín Palace? It is easy to believe it was another defenestration, considering he was found in his night clothes.

Mawer devotes a couple pages to Milada Horáková, who before the Second World War was a prominent member of the Czech Socialist Party, lawyer, advocate for women’s rights, and mother. After the annexation of the Czech lands, she joined the resistance. Horáková was arrested in 1940 and imprisoned until released by American forces in 1945. She was elected to the Czech National Assembly, forced to resign when the Communist Party took power in 1948, arrested in 1949, subjected to the first communist show trial, convicted, and executed in 1950.

The author also reported on the destruction of the massive Lenin statue. It was constructed of seventeen thousand tons of concrete and clad with thirty thousand blocks of granite. It came down in 1962 on orders from Moscow, taking one thousand eight hundred pounds of high explosive to accomplish the job.

Franz Kafka, who died of TB in 1924, is said to haunt Prague. Mawer compares real oppressors to those in Kafka’s work, writing that Kafka’s masterpiece, *The Castle*, “might almost have been prophesying the state that has come to pass in his home city less than three decades after his death, where fear is integral and endemic, where bureaucracy shuffles the cards and then loses them, where

you are what the files say you are, where all is happy because it is decreed to be happy, and all is successful because that is what success is.”

I was amused by Sam and Lenka’s visit to a bar where Bohumil Hrabal supposedly came for a glass of Pilsner most days. “They say that about every pub in the city,” Sam noted. “He would be pissed as a newt if it were true.” I appreciated the nod to Čapek’s newt, and it reminded me of similar tales about Franz Kafka frequenting Café Slavia and other pubs in Prague. Hrabal (1914-1997) was among the best and most prolific of Czech writers of the twentieth century. My favorite of his delightfully comic stories and books is *I Served the King of England*, published in 1973.

It was made into a film directed by Jiří Menzel and released in 2008.

Gwen is coordinator of the Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures book discussion group. Literary Ventures is cosponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the Office of the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic. Find information and updates at [cs-center.org](http://cs-center.org) or contact [gwen@cs-center.org](mailto:gwen@cs-center.org).

Join Literary Ventures for a discussion of *Seven Czech Women: Portraits of Courage, Humanism, and Enlightenment* by Josette Baer at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 24.





# Czech Honorary Consul News

February 2024

Minnesota Consular Corps (MNCC) held its annual Holiday Party on January 5, 2024, at the American Swedish Institute (ASI) in Minneapolis, attended by more than two dozen members, plus friends and spouses, as well as a delegation from the Minnesota Trade Office (MTO), led by Gabrielle Gerbaud, Executive Director and Chief Protocol Officer for the State of Minnesota. MTO is a supporting partner for this annual MNCC event.



Photo: Sharon Valasek



On the cover of the December 2023 *CSA Fraternal Life Journal*: Deborah Zeman, former CEO and president of CSA, member of the Board of Directors at the American-Czech Educational Center in St. Louis, and newly elected Vice President of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) Board; M. L. Kucera, Czech Honorary Consul/Minneapolis; Ondřej Pometlo, Deputy Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago; and Sharon Valasek, Czech Honorary Consul/Kansas City. This picture was taken at the CGSI Conference in Milwaukee in October.



I hosted a breakfast meeting for Sharon Valasek, Czech Honorary Consul/Kansas City, on January 6 at Maria's in Minneapolis. Members of the executive committee of the Minnesota Consular Corps (MNCC) shared ideas and recommendations with Sharon, who is now the Dean of the Consular Corps in Kansas City. (L-R) Marc Al (Netherlands), MNCC Treasurer; Teresa P. Olson (Chile), MNCC Vice President; Sharon Valasek (Czech Republic/Kansas City); M. L. Kucera (Czech Republic/Minneapolis); Bruce Karstadt (Sweden, Emeritus), MNCC president. Sharon also attended the MNCC Holiday Celebration the night before at ASI.



On December 4, Alenka Jans, a Junior Ambassador with the Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Pageant, greeted Marit with traditional bread and salt at the *Svrtý Mikuláš* Celebration in Montgomery.



As Czech Honorary Consul, I attended two December 2023 *Svrtý Mikuláš* parties at C.S.P.S. Hall. *Čert* is inevitably menacing, *anděl* is ever smiling and sweet, *Svrtý Mikuláš* is always majestic.  
Photos: *Čert* selfie and Petra Antošová Riedel



I burned three tall white, red, and blue votive candles for five days in memory of the 14 students and faculty members who lost their lives, plus the 25 who were injured, in the unprecedented shooting tragedy on 21 December 2023 at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague, located near the Vltava River in Jan Palach Square, a busy tourist area in Prague's Old Town.



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic  
in Minneapolis, MN

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul  
651-238-0447  
minneapolis@honorary.mzv.cz  
OR mlkucera@outlook.com





## C.S.P.S. HALL LEGACY FUND

We ask for your support for maintenance and renovation to C.S.P.S. Hall as we celebrate the Hall's 137th year in 2024.



Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-822-6147 or email: [finance@sokolmn.org](mailto:finance@sokolmn.org) *Thank you!*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

To help refinish the C.S.P.S. Hall floors, 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](http://www.sokolmn.org) *Thank You!*

## CZECH AND SLOVAK



383 Michigan Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102  
651-290-0542



For Sokol's  
Latest News!

Join the  
E-blast List

Send your email address to  
[publicity@sokolmn.org](mailto:publicity@sokolmn.org)

For status of events scheduled for the C.S.P.S. Hall, check our calendar at  
[www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/](http://www.sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/)

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* February 2024



### Spring 2024 Events at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 • 651-290-0542

For the most current information, go to the Sokol Minnesota website: [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org)  
Instagram: [@sokolminnesota](https://www.instagram.com/sokolminnesota) or Facebook: [facebook.com/sokolminnesota](https://www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota)

#### Sokol Minnesota Friendly Friday Evenings

2nd Friday of each month, 7-10 p.m.\*\*

Family friendly cards and board games, fun, food, and friends. No fee. Bring your own beverages and/or snacks to share.

#### Flavors of Slovakia Dinner

Sunday, March 10, doors open noon, serving: 12:30p.m.

Soup, traditional Slovak *Bryndzové halušky* (potato dumplings, bacon, and bryndza sheep cheese), *holubky* (cabbage roll side dish), dessert, coffee. \$30. Place your pre-paid\* dinner order by March 3.

#### Dumpling Master Class with Miša Giancarlo Kotek

Sunday, March 17, Noon-4 p.m. Cost: \$50 per person.

Class covers preparation of both bread and potato dumplings; participants take home samples. Class limit: 16 people.

Place your pre-paid\* registration online by March 10.

#### Pancake Breakfast, Craft, and Koláče Bake Sale

Sunday, March 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. No reservations needed.

Public welcome. \$10 adult, \$6 children under 9, \$30/family of 4. *Koláč* (apricot, cream cheese, poppy seed, prune, raspberry) \$2 each. Place your pre-paid\*\* *koláče* order by March 17. Reserve a vendor table\*\*

#### Czech-Slovak Family Event *Velikonoce/Vel'ká noc*

Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. All are welcome!

Celebrate Easter with many hands-on spring crafts and traditions. Enjoy a potluck lunch. Presentations in English.

#### Neighborhood Clean-up

Saturday, April 20, 10-11 a.m.

Join our Sokol Minnesota Youth Link teens and volunteers to clean-up around the C.S.P.S. Hall. [youth@sokolmn.org](mailto:youth@sokolmn.org)

#### Cross-Cultural Humanism: A Literary Gathering for Czech, Slovak, and Polish Communities:

Presentation by Polish writer Mariusz Szczygiel

Saturday, April 27, 4 p.m. with social time following.

Suggested donation: \$20.

Sponsors: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Minnesota Polish Medical Society, Czech Slovak Cultural Center.

#### 26th Annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp, June 17-21

For ages 6 to 14 years. Ethnic crafts and cooking, Czech language, gymnastics, and more.

Early bird registration by May 1.

Final registration by June 1. Info: [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org)

#### Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

19201 Woodland Acres South, Pine City, MN

Sunday, August 11, Noon-5 p.m.

Great food, live music, folk dancers, children's games and fun!

#### 35th Czech & Slovak Festival

Sunday, September 29, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Music, folk dancers, gymnastics, vendors, silent auction, ethnic food, Czech-style beer and wine, children's games.

Volunteer: 612-232-2993 or [events@sokolmn.org](mailto:events@sokolmn.org)



\* To prepay and order online: [www.sokolmn.org/cc](http://www.sokolmn.org/cc)  
or text/call before mailing a check (2 weeks before deadline)  
651-210-0401 or [food@sokolmn.org](mailto:food@sokolmn.org) Mail to  
Sokol Minnesota, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

\*\* Information: [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org) or contact:  
[activities@sokolmn.org](mailto:activities@sokolmn.org) or text/call: 651-210-0401