



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

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

April *Slovo* articles  
due March 1

Events at  
C.S.P.S. Hall  
(info on page 6, 7, 10)

Friendly Friday  
Evenings Social  
Friday, March 8, 7 p.m.  
(info on page 8)

Spring Breakfast, Craft,  
and *Koláče* Bake Sale,  
Sunday, March 24  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
(info on page 16)

Sokol Gift Shop  
open during events  
and by appointment  
(info on page 16)

Open Positions  
at Sokol Minnesota  
(info on page 13)

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/](http://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

At the risk of speaking too soon and jinxing us all before Spring officially arrives, I can't help but revel in the remarkably mild winter we have had this year in Minnesota. Whenever I go to the C.S.P.S. Hall, I always take a few moments to check on the flower gardens and the hops vines near the building. Of course, they still look like bare mulch beds right now, but I know that things are starting to happen beneath the surface and soon enough you will be welcomed by colorful flowers again when you come to the Hall.

If you have visited our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota website at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) recently, you have surely noticed the wonderful improvements and updates to the content and layout. The monthly calendar for the Hall is also very easy to access now, with a big red button marked "Calendar" in the top right corner of the homepage. This overhaul of the website could not have come at a better time, as we have so many exciting events to offer over the coming months. Many thanks to Cinnamon Whaley for doing the heavy lifting of revamping the website, and to Richard Sargent for taking care of the behind-the-scenes technical details to ensure the website works so well.

Our dedicated volunteers have been busy organizing several exciting March events for you. First up will be the **Flavors of Slovakia Dinner** at the C.S.P.S. Hall on March 10, starting at noon. The reservation deadline for the Dinner is March 3, so act quickly if you would like to join us for some delicious Slovak food! (See page 1.)

Also on March 10, at 7 p.m., we are excited to welcome **Czech musicians Miroslav Ambroš and Zuzana Ambrošová** to the C.S.P.S. Hall for an evening of classical music for violin and piano. This event will feature a variety of musical pieces by Czech and other composers in celebration of the 200th birthday anniversary of Czech composer Bedřich Smetana. It is organized in collaboration with the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center (CSCC) and the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis. (See page 10.)

If you enjoy cooking, please register for the **dumpling master class** that will take place at the Hall on Sunday, March 17 from noon-4 p.m. Sokol Minnesota member Míša Giancarlo Kotek will teach how to make both potato dumplings and bread dumplings. Because it will be taught in a "hands-on" format, the class size is limited to 16 people. If you would like to learn from the very best (Míša is a professional baker, see Facebook/The Czech Baker!) about making authentic Czech dumplings, get your registration in early; the deadline is March 10. You can find the registration information on the [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) website.

On March 24, we will have our **Spring Pancake Breakfast, Koláče, and Craft Fair** at the Hall from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. I always enjoy the first moment when I step off the elevator and the smell of pancakes, sausage, and coffee is suddenly everywhere; if you have previously attended a pancake breakfast at the Hall, you know exactly what I am talking about. After you have enjoyed the delicious food, you can get a little exercise by strolling around the Hall and selecting *koláče* and craft items to bring home. I hope you will join us on the 24th. (See page 16.)

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is excited and honored to co-sponsor with several other groups these upcoming presentations and discussions at the Hall: **Financial professional and investment banker Paul Greeman** will present *The Long Road to Prosperity Slovakia and the Czech Republic* on March 16 at 11 a.m. (See page 6.) **Czech poet Petr Hruška** will introduce his work and read from his collection on Friday, March 29 at 7 p.m. (See page 7.)

**Polish journalist and author Mariusz Szczygiel** will present a *Celebration of Czech, Slovak, and Polish Cultures Through Literature* on Saturday, April 27, 4-7 p.m. The Minnesota Polish Medical Society is also hosting a discussion of his book *Gottland: Mostly True Stories From Half of Czechoslovakia* on Thursday, March 14, 6:30-8 p.m. in Minneapolis. (See page 6.)

Finally, we will end this action-packed month with a **Czech-Slovak Velikonoce/Vel'ká noc Easter event** on Saturday, March 30, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Hall. All are welcome to join us as we celebrate Easter with holiday presentations, hands-on crafts for children (and adults!), and a potluck lunch.

Please join us for any or all of these fantastic events, all made possible by our wonderful Sokol Minnesota members who volunteer their time to bring these events to all of us! *Nazdar!*



Lucy  
Brudnak Rose

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

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

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





## New Year's Czech *Svíčková* Dinner

By Joyce Tesarek and M. L. Kucera

2024 was ushered in at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's C.S.P.S. Hall with a delicious dinner of *svíčková* (beef in cream sauce) with bread dumplings, and a magnificent layered *marlenka* (honey cake) prepared by Ludmila Pálková. Ludmila is visiting from the Czech Republic, and spent three days of her vacation preparing this unique and delicious dinner and dessert. Other cooks included Ludmila's daughter Markéta Pálková, Míša Kotek, and Dawn Bulera. Thank you all!



The dinner provided the perfect occasion for at least three tables of extended family members, groups of friends, or business colleagues, along with the many tables of Sokol Minnesota members, to enjoy each other's company. Steve Riedel, Corporate Relations Officer at Global Minnesota (<https://globalminnesota.org/>) was asked by his host at the event, Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera, to say a few words about Global Minnesota. He noted "Global Minnesota's mission is to advance international understanding and engagement." One of the early members of Global Minnesota was Dr. Josef Mestenhauser, Czech Honorary Consul, 1998-2008.

Members of several local Czech and Slovak organizations attended: Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, and Czech Heritage Club. Many are also Sokol Minnesota members.

In honor of 2024 being named as the Year of Music in the Czech Republic, one free ticket to the Flavors of Slovakia Dinner (on March 10) was offered to the attendee whose mother's birthday is closest to Bedřich Smetana's March 2 birthday. Smetana is considered the Father of Czech Music. The winner was Ryan Cihlar. Because Ryan will be playing the accordion during the dinner, he graciously gave his ticket to Livia Elkova, who was also a first timer at a Sokol Minnesota dinner.

Livia, from Slovakia, is a Humphrey Fellow at the University of Minnesota for 2024. She learned about the New Year's Dinner on Sokol Minnesota's Facebook. She was delighted with the meal and all the "wonderful people" she met. She said she will definitely come again to another Sokol Minnesota event.

Additional great volunteers who helped with setup, serving, greetings, and cleanup were: James Bradford, Mary Cahill, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Emma Giancarlo, Abra Gillman, Roger Green, Theresa Hudacek, Lisa Johnson, Bob Kotek, M. L. Kucera, Luboš Mareš, Doreen McKenney, Becky Olson, Fred Simon, Joyce Tesarek, Tereza Treanor, Louise Wessinger, and Bryan Wyberg.

**Our next authentic dinner will be the  
Flavors of Slovakia Dinner on March 10**

(see page 1)

**Save the date, and come and taste the new menu!**



1. New Years Dinner at the C.S.P.S. Hall.
2. Abra Gillman and Becky Olson serving the dinner.
3. Roger Green with a beverage assortment.
4. Chefs Míša Kotek, Ludmila Pálková, and Markéta Pálková
5. Chefs Dawn Bulera and Míša Kotek applying finishing touches to dinners.



## Škola and Czech Baker Connection By Jitka Sebek

Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (Škola) Saturday morning classes at the C.S.P.S. Hall are always fun, thanks to carefully chosen activities and many opportunities to enjoy friendship among the learners and caregivers.

When a “hands-on” project includes sampling freshly baked *rohlíky* with home-made jam, the joy turns into a memorable experience. The Czech Baker will give us several more opportunities to prepay and order additional delicious baked goods. We look forward to our Saturdays!  
Enjoying *rohlíky*



## SMYL Makes Valentines

Sokol Minnesota Youth League member Sylvie and advisors made Valentines at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Saturday, January 27, to be given to our neighbors, residents at the Lexington Landing.



L-R: M. L. Kucera, Sylvie, Judy Metcalf, Glynis Grostephan. Not pictured Louise Wessinger and Doreen McKenney

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



Come indoors out of the cold!  
Gymnastics classes at C.S.P.S. Hall  
for boys and girls continue throughout winter!

## Gymnastics Classes Ongoing and Available

Spots are still available.

No experience necessary!

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

## 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.



Puppeteer Kurt Hunter will teach at camp.

We are excited to announce that puppeteer Kurt Hunter will join us this year to teach a workshop in marionette construction.

Hunter is a Minneapolis-based puppeteer well known locally and nationally (he is a Jim Henson Foundation Family Grant recipient) for his innovative solo marionette work. See [www.huntermarionettes.com](http://www.huntermarionettes.com)

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, to qualify for the Early-Bird discount.

All camp registration materials must be received by June 1.

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



## Save the Dates • Upcoming events

### WWII *The Accidental Hero* Performance by Patrick Dewane on Saturday, April 13



Matt Konop carried by townspeople of Domažlice, Czechoslovakia, 1945.

Patrick Dewane will perform his widely-acclaimed tribute to his grandfather's action in World War II, *The Accidental Hero*, at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Saturday, April 13, at 7 p.m. Patricia Hampl will join him on stage afterwards for an interview. The music of Czech-born Pavel Jany, Twin Cities-based classical and contemporary jazz guitarist, will welcome theatre goers, starting an hour before the performance.

Dewane's grandfather, Matt Konop, as the WWII American officer commanding the advance unit in southwestern Czechoslovakia, was miraculously in position to liberate the Czech villages of Konop's grandparents.

Advance tickets (\$15 General Admission and \$20 Reserved Seating are available at <https://sokolmn.org/all-events/> Get your tickets soon for this always-popular event!

Dewane is donating his performance as a fundraiser for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Supporting this fundraiser are Czech Heritage Club, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, and Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis.

**Watch the April *Slovo* and upcoming E-blasts for more information.**

### Explore the Czech, Slovak, and Polish Cultures

Two upcoming events focus on renowned Polish journalist and author Mariusz Szczygieł. The Minnesota Polish Medical Society (MPMS) is the source for this information.

#### MPMS Dine and Talk/Book Club

In anticipation of the April visit to Minnesota of Mariusz Szczygieł, the MPMS book club discussion on March 14 will focus on *Gottland: Mostly True Stories From Half of Czechoslovakia*. The discussion will be conducted in English. Reading the book before the meeting is not necessary.

For one review of *Gottland*, see: [www.nytimes.com/2014/06/23/books/mariusz-szczygiels-gottland-sees-a-surreal-czechoslovakia.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/23/books/mariusz-szczygiels-gottland-sees-a-surreal-czechoslovakia.html)

#### Book Club discussion of *Gottland*

**Thursday, March 14, 6:30 - 8 p.m., 410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis**

Secure your spot by registering early

[www.pamsm.org/events/mpms-networking-dine-and-talk-book-club](http://www.pamsm.org/events/mpms-networking-dine-and-talk-book-club)

### Celebrate Czech, Slovak, and Polish Cultures Through Literature

An exclusive literary encounter at the C.S.P.S. Hall features Mariusz Szczygieł, a distinguished Polish journalist and author of over ten books, who offers captivating perspectives that transcend borders. Immerse yourself in his compelling blend of diary entries, essays, and literary reportage that encapsulates the spirit of Cross-Cultural Humanism. While residing in Warsaw, he confesses that his soul truly resides in Prague, and he speaks fluent Czech. Experience an enriching evening with: social hour, book sale, author's presentation, Q&A session; refreshments and cash bar.

The event sponsors include Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities and the Minnesota Polish Medical Society.

#### Literary encounter with Mariusz Szczygieł

**Saturday, April 27, 4 – 7 p.m.**

**C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 W Michigan Street, Saint Paul**

Register: [www.pamsm.org/events/explore-the-czech-slovak-and-polish-cultures-through-literature](http://www.pamsm.org/events/explore-the-czech-slovak-and-polish-cultures-through-literature)

### The Long Road to Prosperity Slovakia and the Czech Republic

**March 16, 11 a.m.**

Join us for a fascinating presentation and discussion on the post-1989 history of privatization and the transition to a market economy in Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

The discussion will focus on the privatization process, the evolution of private business, the development of the entrepreneur, and the emergence of Slovakia and Czechia on the world stage. The lecture will frame the subject in the unique time in the history of developing markets, the role of global capital, and foreign direct investment.

Paul Greeman is a financial professional and investment banker who continues to work internationally while living in Minnesota. He was a key participant and thought leader as Slovakia and the Czech Republic moved from socialism to a market economy. He and his family are residents of Slovakia and the United States.

The discussion is co-sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota and Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

**Zoom: <http://tinyurl.com/47xn224w>**

**Meeting ID: 851 234 4175**

**Passcode: 515704**

## An Evening of Poetry with Petr Hruška

Friday, March 29, 7 p.m. at C.S.P.S. Hall. Free and open to the public.

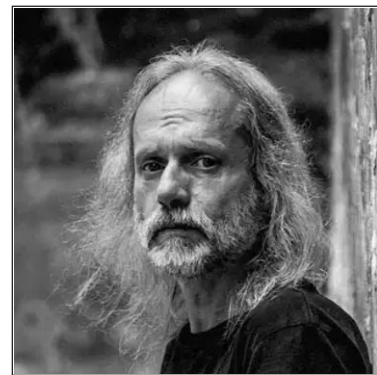
Renowned Czech poet Petr Hruška is on tour in the United States to launch his newest poetry collection and first volume in English translation, *Everything Indicates*.

We are honored to welcome him to Minnesota, where he will introduce his work and read from the collection. He will be accompanied by Jan Zikmund, who will provide translation.

Petr Hruška is a leading contemporary poet in the Czech Republic. His poetry has won a number of state and international awards. He works at the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, specializing in poetry from the twentieth century to the present, and is the author of scholarly articles and books on Czech poetry.

*Everything Indicates* was translated from the Czech by Jonathan Bolton, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University, and was published by Blue Diode Publishing (Leith, Scotland, U.K.), in October 2023.

Sponsored by the Czech & Slovak Cultural Center; Literary Ventures: Czech and Slovak Books in Translation; Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; and the Office of the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis.



Petr Hruška



Andy and Bob Marabella  
at the grill.

## Save the Date! Sunday, August 11 94th Annual Minnesota Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

Hello! Please mark your calendars now for the 94th Annual Minnesota Sokol Camp Booya Picnic.

This year we will feature the Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers and folk singer Dave Carlson. We will serve up two recipes of homemade booya, plus *jitrnice* and *koláče*.

Bring the kids, grandkids, and friends along for carnival games, water balloon toss, and live bingo. Come early and stay the afternoon.

For those interested in giving a helping hand, we are always in need of volunteers, both young and seasoned. Please phone or text Kari or Scott Muyres at 763-226-0313.

### Minnesota Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

Sunday, August 11

Noon until 4 p.m. food and beverage service

19201 Woodland Acres South, Pine City, Minnesota

Nazdar!

Co-chairs Kari and Scott Muyres

## 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)



## 43rd Minneapolis St. Paul INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL April 10-25

MSPIFF is one of the largest  
and longest-running  
film festivals in the United States

Announcements about the film lineup, visiting filmmakers,  
parties, and more are coming soon!

All-access passes are on sale now.

Check the MSPIFF website for updates:  
<https://mspiff.org/mspiff43-minneapolis-st-paul-international-film-festival/>





VU3V walkers Lenka Hester, Jitka Sebek, Alena Youngberg, and Martina Gurgel.

## Virtual University for the Third Age Underway in Minnesota By Jitka Sebek

Czech native speakers met on January 27 for a walk to inaugurate the Virtual University for the Third Age program locally, watch the first virtual class video, and take the first test. They plan to also meet for upcoming activities, including another walk, crafting, a Friendly Friday (at the C.S.P.S. Hall on April 12), and the May mushroom hunt with Mojo Mushroom. We look forward to including more VU3V enthusiasts and to seeing each other again.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities are proud to be a Consultation Center (host site) for the North American debut of the Virtual University for the Third Age (*Virtuální univerzita třetího věku VU3V*). (See the article introducing VU3V in the February *Slovo*, page 10.)



## 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)

## March 2024 Events at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

### Sokol Minnesota Friendly Friday Evenings

2nd Friday of each month, 7-10 p.m.\*\* No fee  
Family friendly cards and board games, fun, food, and friends. 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 Míša 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.  
\$10 adult, \$6 children under 9, \$30/family of 4.

No reservations needed. Public welcome.

*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.

\* 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



# 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)

### Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

By Steve Ernest

Fourteen new members were accepted at the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota January Board of Directors meeting.

**Alberta and Chad Augustin**, Minneapolis, with interests in adult dance group, films and theater, music and dances, history and genealogy, event help, organize, event help setup, language classes, cooking classes, crafting classes.

**Dave Cammack**, New Brighton, with interests in adult dance group, music and dances.

**Jason Fincke**, Arlington, Virginia, with interests in youth culture camp, films and theater, history and genealogy.

**Hannah Lieberman**, Saint Paul, with interests in films and theater, history and genealogy, language classes, other Sokol activities.

**Julie and Scott Lindner**, Woodbury, with interests in adult dance group.

**Silvia Magana**, Coon Rapids, with interests in adult dance group, and event help organize, setup, staff booths, serve meals, and cleanup.

**Karmen McQuitty**, Minneapolis, with interests in adult calisthenics, adult dance group, adult singing group, literature group, history and genealogy, event help organize, event help setup, language classes, crafting classes, other Sokol activities.

**Galen Pocta**, North Branch, with interests in youth singing group, youth culture camp, Sokol Minnesota Youth Link, adult dance group, literature group, films and theater, music and dances, history and genealogy.

**Elizabeth Ryan**, Shoreview, with interests in youth gymnastics.

**Kate Sammons**, Falcon Heights, with interests in youth dance group.

**Michael Topic**, Columbia Heights, with interests in adult dance group, films and theater, history and genealogy, language classes, other Sokol activities.

**Lenka Voborilova**, Minneapolis, with interests in youth dance group.

We welcome you to Sokol Minnesota!

### 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:** Lillian Bednar, Jean Curtis-Neitz, Mary Edel-Joyce, Joyce Ehmke, Joseph Gall, Kevin Hurbanis, Anthony Kaczor, Darla Kolb, Anita and John McKeown, Teresa Pojar, Fred Simon, Marshal and Gretchen Toman, and Richard Verner.

**\$100 - \$499:** Janet Balej, Roger Green, Marlene Hinshaw, Vince Jirik, Bob Kostichka, John Palka, and Richard Sargent.

**\$500 - \$999:** Tom Aubrecht, Lucy Brudnak Rose and Stephen Rose.

**\$1000 - \$9999:** Cindy Coulter.

**TOTAL \$3,375**

### 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: 612-232-2993 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**  
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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!*

# Bohemian Rhapsody

## Celebrating the Czech Year of Music



Embassy of the Czech Republic  
Washington, DC

**The Embassy of the Czech Republic invites all from around the United States to submit a photograph or a video of themselves or their child(ren) celebrating Czech music!**

For example, videos could show a child or adult playing or singing their favorite classical or modern piece of Czech music. With each submission, please include the name of the Czech artist and musical piece as well as a one sentence description of why the Czech artist and musical piece inspires you or your child(ren). The Czech Embassy will collect the videos and photographs in honor of Bedřich Smetana, known as the father of Czech music, and share them with the public during or leading up to its fall *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2024 - Bedřich Smetana*.

### *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2024 - Bedřich Smetana*

The *Mutual Inspirations Festival (MIF)* is an annual initiative spearheaded by the Embassy of the Czech Republic, focusing on the mutual inspirations between Czech and American cultures and featuring each year in September through November an extraordinary Czech personality who has greatly influenced and inspired others through his or her work. In its fifteenth year, the festival will highlight music and celebrate 200 years since the birth of the Czech classical composer, Bedřich Smetana.

More information will be made available at [www.mutualinspirations.org](http://www.mutualinspirations.org).

### Bedřich Smetana

Bedřich Smetana (1824 –1884) was a brilliant Czech classical composer, who is honored for his development of a nationalistic musical style. He is known worldwide for his opera, *Prodaná nevěsta (The Bartered Bride)*, and a set of symphonic poems, *Má vlast (My Fatherland)*, which contains the famous composition *Vltava* (in English, *The Moldau*) about the river, which runs through the Czech capital of Prague.

### The Submissions

The Embassy of the Czech Republic reserves the right to use its discretion to select, edit, and utilize any and all submitted photographs and recorded videos. The Embassy will utilize and post the best photographs and recorded videos on its website - [www.mutualinspirations.org](http://www.mutualinspirations.org) - and social media outlets, such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, during or leading up to its celebration of the fall *Mutual Inspirations Festival 2024 – Bedřich Smetana*. Photo credit will be duly accredited to each photograph and/or video whenever it is posted or published.

### SUBMISSION OF MATERIALS

- The photograph or video must be sent to the email address at [czechembassypr@gmail.com](mailto:czechembassypr@gmail.com). Deadline is no later than **April 30, 2024**. For larger files, please send via dropbox. Only one video and/or two photographs may be submitted per participant.
- Please put “Bohemian Rhapsody” in the subject line of your email. Please include your first and last name and contact information. Please include the first name only of your child(ren) and his or her age(s). Please include the name of the Czech artist and musical piece and write a one sentence description of why the artist and musical piece inspires you or your child(ren).
- Please submit digital, high-resolution photos, preferably in JPG format. For smart phone photos, please submit at the highest quality possible.
- Videos must not be longer than one minute and must be recorded clearly and horizontally at the highest resolution possible for submission.

### Contact Information

The Embassy of the Czech Republic is located at  
3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20008, USA.

Its Public Diplomacy Department may be reached via [czechembassypr@gmail.com](mailto:czechembassypr@gmail.com)



**MARCH 10, 2024**  
**AMBROŠ DUO PRAGUE**

Join us on **Sunday, March 10, 2024**  
**7:00PM**

for a spectacular

**Concert in Celebration of 200th Anniversary  
of the Birth of Czech Composer  
Bedřich Smetana**

This beautiful concert by **Miroslav Ambroš** on violin and **Zuzana Ambrošová** on piano will be a celebration of Czech classical music by

- ☞ Bedřich Smetana: From my Homeland - two duos
- ☞ Josef Suk: Radúz and Mahulena Op.16 - violin solo from the Fairy Tale
- ☞ Antonín Dvořák: Sonata G major Op. 100
- ☞ Josef Suk, Jr.: Romance
- ☞ Antonín Dvořák: Mazurek e minor Op. 49
- ☞ Antonín Dvořák: Humoreska
- ☞ Juraj Filas: Les Adieux
- ☞ Pablo de Sarasate: Concert Fantasy on Faust.

**Miroslav Ambroš** is an accomplished Czech violinist who has played on many prominent world stages, such as Tabaret Hall in Ottawa, Memorial Hall in Phoenix, Oratoire de Louvre in Paris, Sala Caselle in Rome, and Art Center in Seoul. **Zuzana Ambrošová** is an accomplished chamber player, repeatedly invited to play at international festivals and competitions.



### Concert

C.S.P.S. Hall  
383 W. Michigan  
St. Paul, MN 55102

### Sunday

March 10, 2024

7:00 PM CT

### CONTACT @

[INFO@CS-CENTER.ORG](mailto:INFO@CS-CENTER.ORG)

651-587-9621

CZECH AND SLOVAK  
CULTURAL CENTER OF  
MINNESOTA

[WWW.CS-CENTER.ORG](http://WWW.CS-CENTER.ORG)

Suggested  
donation \$10





### BPTC Team Works Together on Special Project By Bob Kotek

In January, members of the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Building and Properties Trustees Committee (BPTC) took a break from their regular duties and gathered at Gary Novak's wood shop to repair and refinish several antique theater seat sections from the C.S.P.S. Hall. The seats will now be able to be used again for various events, adding to the charm of the overall Hall experience.

L-R: BPTC members Gary Novak, Dan Bednar, Jake Jacobson, Dennis Cahill, Bryan Wyberg, and in back, BPTC Chair Bob Kotek.

## 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)




## 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

# Highlights of the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors January 2024 Meeting

By Tom Aubrecht from Recording Secretary Theresa Hudachek's Minutes

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors January 18, 2024, meeting was called to order by President Lucy Brudnak Rose at 7 p.m.

Cheryl Nelson presented an opportunity, which was approved, to co-sponsor with the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota a virtual presentation on March 16 by Paul Greeman, "Privatization in Slovakia and the Czech Republic." (See the ad on page 6.)

Honorary Czech Consul Marit Lee Kucera recommended The Community Reporter as a great place to advertise the rental possibilities that our C.S.P.S. Hall offers, as well as for Sokol Minnesota to show support for the West 7th/Little Bohemia neighborhood of which we have been a part for over 140 years. The proposal was approved. She also requested funds for supporting the International Film Festival; \$500 was approved.

Cinnamon Whaley noted the new website will be going live next Tuesday evening.

Ryan Cihlar, an accordion player, is offering to provide background music for events (dinners, etc.) at the Hall. President Lucy Rose will follow up with him.

Preparing an application for an American Sokol 2024 Foundation Award was considered. The award categories are: Gateway to the Future, Corporate Sustainability, and Unit Growth.

Electing Sokol Minnesota representatives to the Western District Board was discussed.

Promoting the Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota pageant more actively, and having Sokol Minnesota sponsor candidates, was discussed and approved.

Mary Cahill and Jason Brozovich noted gymnastics classes are in the second of three sessions. Enrollment continues to be down. Some gymnasts are training for the Western District Slet to be held April 27 at Sokol South Omaha. Long-time gymnast and coach, Mitchell Gillman, is in Basic Training in the Army. A coaching replacement is being sought.

Education Director Sally Lieberman provided the following information:

One Czech and one Slovak language class were cancelled because of not meeting the enrollment minimum. Alternatives were suggested for the students involved.

Sokol Minnesota is one of two host sites for the North American debut of the Czech program Virtual University of the Third Age (VU3V) that offers university courses for older adults. Our first course offering is "The Remarkable World of Mushrooms." We will officially launch it and start publicizing next Wednesday after the new website goes live.

An informational meeting via Zoom on Summer Language Study in the Czech Republic (programs in Poděbrady and Prague) with Ondřej Pometlo, Deputy Consul General/Chicago, and other speakers will be held via Zoom on Monday, February 5, at 7 p.m.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF) will take place April 11-25. The list of films is not yet available. (See page 7.)

**12 March 2024 Slovo**

The Bohemian Flats Revisited program is scheduled for July 13 at 10 a.m. at Bohemian Flats Park in Minneapolis. It will include a history chat, stories and photos from descendants, and a tour of the newly-planted Oak Savannah area.

There is a possibility that Czech poet Petr Hruška will be here and could give a talk right around Easter (March 31). Renáta Tichá of the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center (CSCC) and Jitka Sebek of Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities are in touch with the tour organizers.

Master baker from the Czech Republic, Maškrtnica ([www.maskrtnica.cz](http://www.maskrtnica.cz)) will visit the Twin Cities in April and will hold two paid classes at the Hall on April 19 and 21. Míša Giancarlo Kotek and Jitka Sebek are the primary contacts.

Cross-Cultural Humanism: A Literary Gathering for Czech and Polish Communities will be held on April 27, 2024, 4 -7 p.m. at the Hall. The featured speaker is Polish Journalist and non-fiction writer Mariusz Szczygieł. Sokol Minnesota is a co-sponsor along with CSCC, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, and the Minnesota Polish Medical Society. A \$20 donation per person is suggested. Sokol Minnesota is asked to contribute financially toward the refreshments and open bar. (See the article on page 6.)

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Joyce Tesarek provided the Final 2023 Profit and Loss sheet. The account balances were noted.

Membership Director Steve Ernest presented 14 new members; they were approved.

Gaming Manager Ed Hamernik presented the February expense budget; it was approved.

Building and Trustee Committee Chair Bob Kotek noted window bids are being collected. Working with Otis for a bid to upgrade the elevator; a second vendor is also being considered. Security system confidentiality was discussed. Planting shrubs is under consideration.

Activities Director Jeanie Draheim noted the Spring Postcard is being worked on, with a big push to get it done to be sent with February *Slovo*.

Rental Committee Chair Gary Zweber noted that January and February are usually slower for rentals. It was emphasized that Sokol Minnesota events take priority over rental events.

Volunteers are needed for the March 10 Flavors of Slovakia Dinner. Denise Stibal and Joyce Tesarek will be reaching out to newer members.

Upcoming events include:

Film: <https://walkerart.org/calendar/2024/daisies-by-vera-chytilova>

24th Annual Masopust in Montgomery, February 18, noon to 4; and

Minnesota Sokol Camp board meeting on Sunday, January 21



## 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**

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.

Thank you, members, for being part of our community!  
Your participation in our events and activities,  
in person or in spirit, is invaluable.

We are looking forward to another exciting year in 2024!

## Positions are Open for Treasurer, Finance Committee, and *Slovo* Copy Editor at Sokol Minnesota

### **Finance:**

Do you enjoy working with numbers? Do you know Quickbooks? Come join our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board as Treasurer. You would work with our Bookkeeper and Accountant, and attend one Finance Committee meeting (hybrid) and one Board meeting (virtual) per month.

The Finance Committee also has an opening.

**If interested or for more information  
contact [Finance@Sokolmn.org](mailto:Finance@Sokolmn.org)  
or call Joyce Tesarek at 612-232-2993**

### ***Slovo*:**

Would you like to assist in promoting Sokol Minnesota's physical, educational, cultural, and social programs through documenting in the *Slovo* the organizers' efforts on, and attendees' participation in, those programs, as well as those of our affiliated groups? Would you enjoy coordinating and collaborating in a timely manner with *Slovo* contributors, reviewers, and the *Slovo* team, as well as proofreading, editing relative to *Slovo* standards, and selecting photos? The *Slovo* position of co-managing editor/copy editor is open.

**If interested in this position  
call Joyce Tesarek at 612-232-2993  
or Mary Cahill at 651-738-9470**

### ***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 1,4,5,9,11,16).

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, Steve Ernest, Mary Cahill, Glynis Grostephan, Bob Kotek, M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Kari Muires, Jitka Sebek, Joyce Tesarek, Louise Wessinger, and Gwen Willems.

Additional photographs, ads, or illustrations in this issue (not already noted) provided by: Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Embassy of the Czech Republic, Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic, Bob Kotek, Literary Ventures, Doreen McKenney, Minnesota Polish Medical Society, Kari Muires, Jitka Sebek, Sokol Minnesota Youth Link Committee, Katka Svensson, Joyce Tesarek, and Gwen Willems.

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

*The Mighty and the Almighty: Reflections on America, God, and World Affairs* by Madeleine Albright with Bill Woodward. HarperCollins: New York, 368 pages; 2006. Available at libraries and bookstores.

In this thought-provoking book, Madeleine Albright (1937-2022) examined the role of religion in United States foreign affairs. Our foreign policy officials used to downplay the role of religion in international affairs, in line with interpretation of the constitutional separation of church and state. Albright wrote that diplomats used to navigate by the concept of modernization, which she wrote, “many took as a synonym for secularization.” Albright argued that with increasing religious warfare during the last decades, our political leaders cannot ignore the role of religion.

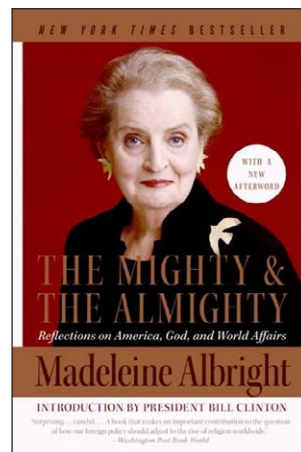
*The Mighty and the Almighty* is the second of Albright's seven books. As a former secretary of state, twentieth U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, international consultant, and distinguished professor, Albright was in an excellent position to provide this insightful, wise, and honest overview. She also had a unique personal experience of religion, having been born a Czech Jew, raised Catholic, and married Episcopalian. In this book, she used history, her personal experiences, and critiques to make her points. She discussed episodes from an impressive number of countries to exemplify larger issues and used detailed quotations that add to her credibility.

Although the book was published in 2006, a dramatically different time, her observations and lessons are still highly relevant today, when the Israel-Hamas War is raging and there are fears of conflict expanding across the region.

Religion is important to many people around the world and political actions are often based on religion, so it has to be part of international diplomacy. However, it is difficult, considering ingrained beliefs and how hard it is to understand other religions and cultures.

Is conflict inevitable? Albright wrote that, “People of diverse nations and faiths ought to be able to live in harmony. However, the gap between what ought to be and what actually is has been a recurring source of drama throughout human existence. Decades ago, Reinhold Niebuhr warned us that the brutality of nations and groups cannot be tamed no matter how hard we try. ‘Social conflict,’ he wrote, is ‘an inevitability in human history, probably to its very end.’”

Albright brought a highly optimistic, forthright, can-do attitude to her work and her perspectives on America's international role, religion, and ethics in the currently divided world. As Bill Clinton wrote in his introduction, “... the only way to avoid stepping on toes is to stand still. Madeleine Albright is the embodiment of forward movement.”



Honoring separation of church and state, is it best for the United States to take a humanistic view and try to act morally, do what is right? Albright wrote of her childhood hero, Tomáš Masaryk, who “did not think it was necessary to believe in God to be moral, but he did argue that religious faith, properly understood, did much to encourage and strengthen right behavior. I have similar views.”

Another way to look at it is through the lens of “just war,” carried out by a competent authority with moral intentions for a cause that is right. This doctrine was developed over time by Saint Thomas Aquinas and Hugo Grotius. Today it is reflected in the Geneva Conventions and other secular international legal documents, according to Albright.

Religion can be used to avoid or end wars. Albright wrote that, “The most famous example of faith-based peacemaking was orchestrated by President Jimmy Carter at Camp David in 1978. Most observers acknowledge that the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel would never have come about if not for Carter's ability to understand and appeal to the deep religious convictions of President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin.”

In final reflections, Albright offered seven ideas about how America and the rest of the world can move forward: (1) Localize, don't globalize, (2) Remember who the enemy is, (3) Don't play with matches, (4) Develop a common understanding of what terrorism is, (5) Talk about the treatment of women in a manner that leads to actual progress, (6) Christians, Muslims, and Jews should realize how much they have in common, and (7) Leaders should identify overlapping principles, ethics, and beliefs in the Judeo-Christian-Islamic tradition and pursue shared objectives.

Despite the topic, *The Mighty and the Almighty* was not as compelling as the other Albright books I have read—*Madame Secretary: A Memoir* (2003), *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937–1948* (2012), and *Fascism: A Warning* (2018). If you are a student of politics, you are probably familiar with most of Albright's historical vignettes and can consider this book a refresher. For readers who are newcomers to politics, the historical anecdotes can be especially enlightening. The excellent notes and index sections help readers navigate all that Albright cites. In any case, the book is full of topics for thought and is a good one to keep returning to.

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 *So Many Heroes* by Alan Levy at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 23.



# Czech Honorary Consul News

March 2024

The Consulate of the Czech Republic/Chicago announced on February 2 that many Czech organizations in Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota are again 2024 recipients of grants from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Saint Paul ... 275,000 CZK; Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Saint Paul ... 70,000 CZK; Czech Heritage Club, New Prague ... 50,000 CZK; St. Mary's Preservation Association of Bechyn ... 50,000 CZK; Czech National Cemetery, Cedar Rapids ... 100,000 CZK.; National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, Cedar Rapids .... 485,000 CZK; Czech Heritage Preservation Society, Tabor ... 245,000 CZK; plus 23 other organizations in the upper MidWest USA for a total of 3,855,000 CZK. According to Ondřej Pometlo, Deputy Consul General/Chicago, the Chicago Consulate continues to be the biggest distributor both in number of partners and in money. (Approximately 23 CZK = \$1 US in early February 2024).

At the New Year's Dinner on January 24 at C.S.P.S. Hall, it was rewarding to see several of the Czech and Slovak Roundtable Minnesota member organizations represented: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, and Czech Heritage Club. The Roundtable has met quarterly since 2017 to promote cooperation, connection, conversation, and contact among the many Czech and Slovak organizations here in Minnesota.

One of my guests at the Czech Honorary Consul's table was Steve Riedel, who has often helped me connect with local and state

Elvira Elková, from Košice, Slovakia and a first-time diner at a Sokol Minnesota dinner, was one of the few people who already knew about Global Minnesota; it had been one of the first organizations that welcomed her upon arrival in Minnesota. She is a 2024 Humphrey Fellow. Named after the late Minnesota Senator and 38th U.S. Vice President, Hubert H. Humphrey (1911-1978), the prestigious "Humphrey Fellowship Program, a Fulbright Exchange, builds connections between U.S. and foreign leaders to advance solutions to the most pressing global challenges, from combating climate change, to protecting human rights, increasing access to education, and building global health security." <https://www.humphreyfellowship.org/> Dr. Elková, who holds several advanced degrees, works with the Department of Social Affairs in Slovakia's Central Office of Labor, Social Affairs and Family. Her goals while here in the United States are to deepen her skills related to social policy, evaluation, public finance management, and leadership. (L-R): M.L. Kucera, Elvira Elková, Steve Riedel. Photo by Dixie Riedel.

resources, ever since I became the Czech Honorary Consul in late 2015. Formerly with the Minnesota Trade Office, he is now the Corporate Relations Officer with Global Minnesota. Steve described how Global Minnesota has evolved from an international student-welcoming committee in 1951 to a multifaceted organization with a broad mission "to advance international understanding and engagement." Global Minnesota has hosted hundreds of professional exchange participants from around the world. <https://globalminnesota.org>



The 35th Annual Duchnovich Day Celebration by the Rusin Association of Minnesota on February 3, started with the presentation "Successful Carpatho-Rusyn Family Research" by Bill Tarkulich, one of the best-known Rusyn genealogists in the United States. Polly Walker, Eileen Jaszewski, Tammy Dennis, and Kim Johnson, who all have connections to St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral in North East Minneapolis, explained their current genealogy projects, plus they met individually with audience members to help with their family research. (L-R) Standing with mannequins in traditional Rusyn kroje: Kim Johnson, Karen Varian, Bill Tarkulich, and M.L. Kucera.

The dinner tables were decorated with beautiful hand-embroidered runners, part of the personal Rusyn textile collection of Karen Varian, President of the Rusin Association of Minnesota. Several 6' long *rushnyk* (ritual cloths) were given to her by a distant Rusyn cousin's wife in Slovakia. Her cousin had been a *starosta* (master of ceremony) at many weddings; it is the tradition for the bride to present a *rushnyk* to the *starosta*.



2024 is the Year of Czech Music, a celebration held once a decade, on the year that ends on the number four, a number that marks many Czech music anniversaries. To mark the occasion this year, Radio Prague International has prepared a video series paying tribute to some of the country's renowned composers including Bedřich Smetana, whose birth was 200 years ago on March 2. <https://english.radio.cz/czech-music-greats-8802984>



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic  
in Minneapolis, MN

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul  
651-238-0447  
[minneapolis@honorary.mzv.cz](mailto:minneapolis@honorary.mzv.cz)  
OR [mlkucera@outlook.com](mailto:mlkucera@outlook.com)



## March 2024

### Czech and Slovak Gift Shop Hours

385 Michigan Street, Saint Paul MN (street entrance)



- 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)

CZECH AND SLOVAK



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



Use our QR code to [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org) to follow all of our activities, events, and classes!



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* March 2024

# Spring Pancake Breakfast Craft and *koláče* Bake Sale

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

Sunday, March 24 **2024**  
9 a.m. - 1p.m.

Pancakes (all-you-can-eat), sausage, fruit cup, juice, and coffee.  
\$10 Adult; \$6 child under 9;  
\$30/family of 4.

### Pre-order *koláče*

Apricot, cream cheese, poppy seed, prune, or raspberry *koláč* \$2 each.

Place your prepaid *koláče* order by Sunday, March 17.

Payment:

Prepay by reserving online: credit/debit card or PayPal go to [www.sokolmn.org/cc/](http://www.sokolmn.org/cc/) or

Voice/text: 651-210-0401 if paying by check.

Vendor information contact: [activities@sokolmn.org](mailto:activities@sokolmn.org)

Public welcome.