



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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May Slovo articles**  
due April 1

**Events held at  
C.S.P.S. Hall**  
(See pages 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 16)

**Friendly Friday  
Evenings Social**  
Friday, April 12, 7 p.m.  
(info on page 7, 8)

**The Accidental Hero  
Performance**  
Saturday, April 13  
6 p.m. doors open  
(info on page 6, 16)

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

**Open Positions  
at Sokol Minnesota**  
(info on page 14)

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



# Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp

June 17-21 **2024**

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



**26th annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp  
will take place June 17-21, 2024 at the C.S.P.S. Hall.**

**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**

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

During the recent pandemic, maintaining the sense of community among our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *bratři a sestry* (brothers and sisters) was challenging as we no longer gathered at the C.S.P.S. Hall to share meals, dance, sing, and otherwise celebrate our culture together. Nevertheless, several of our dedicated volunteers found creative ways to make sure we could still come to the parking lot of the Hall to pick up a “to-go” version of a Czech or Slovak dinner, or say hello to *Svatý Mikuláš* (Saint Nicholas), *anděl* (angel), and *čert* (devil) through the first-floor front window of the Hall, or attend a class on Zoom to learn how to weave split-straw snowflake ornaments. I am grateful to then-President Dave Stepan, the other members of the Board of Directors, and the many volunteers who did their absolute best to keep our community together while we were physically apart.

I was reminded of that unique and difficult time because it stands in stark contrast to the joy, excitement, and vibrancy that has recently filled our wonderful C.S.P.S. Hall once again. As a case in point, last month's event calendar was absolutely bursting at the seams with activities, including ethnic meals, cooking classes, musical performances, a Friendly Friday gathering, a craft sale, and an evening of Czech poetry. And all of those events were in addition to the regular slate of programming from language, youth gymnastics, singing, to dancing classes offered at our Hall each week! I am grateful to all of you in our Sokol Minnesota membership for so enthusiastically embracing these opportunities to spend time together, foster community in person, and share experiences together at our Hall again. As this month brings even warmer weather and slightly more daylight each day, our Hall will continue to be filled with the energy of spring. Many of our Sokol Minnesota youth and adult programs are preparing for big events coming up this month, and our volunteers are as busy as ever.

If you haven't already been to one of our monthly **Friendly Friday Evenings** get-togethers, please consider joining us at the Hall on April 12 from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. These monthly events provide an opportunity for Sokol Minnesota members of all ages to relax and socialize together while playing a game of cards, a board game, or just enjoying some light refreshments and conversation. Feel free to bring your favorite game or perhaps a light snack to share.

Also coming up this month, on Saturday, April 13, at 7 p.m. Patrick Dewane will join us at the Hall to perform the biographical presentation *The Accidental Hero*. Patrick developed this one-man show to tell the story of his grandfather's participation in the liberation of the family's ancestral village in Czechoslovakia at the end of World War II. Patrick has previously performed this piece for Sokol Minnesota and we are pleased that he will join us to perform it again. Before the performance, Czech-born local guitarist Pavel Jany will kick off the evening's events beginning at 6 p.m. with jazz music; please be sure to join us for both performances! Immediately following *The Accidental Hero*, local writer and Sokol Minnesota member Patricia Hampl will conduct an onstage interview with Patrick to explore his concept, scripting, and presentations of *The Accidental Hero*. All are welcome to stay for this post-performance interview and discussion.

Members of our **Sokol Minnesota youth girls and boys gymnastics programs** will be participating in the **Western District gymnastics competition (slet) in Omaha**, Nebraska on Saturday, April 27. We are thrilled to have four girls and two boys representing us at the *slet*, and we wish them safe travels and good luck in Omaha. We are so proud of you! Our gymnasts will compete against other Sokol youth gymnastics teams from around the region, including teams from Iowa and Nebraska.

On a related note, but a bit further from home, I am excited that Sokol Minnesota will also be represented at this year's **All-Sokol Slet**, which will be held in **Prague** from June 30 to July 5. Jason Brozovich will participate in the *Rocková Symfonie* program, along with hundreds of other Sokols from around the world. Jason has been busy in recent months learning the choreography for this large group performance and I am confident he will make us proud!

As we move into spring and the birds and flowers gradually make their reappearance, I hope you will have the opportunity to join us this month for a few of the events we have planned. If you happen to spot me outside the Hall, staring expectantly at the hops vines and the flower beds, please don't hesitate to say hello and introduce yourself! I look forward to hearing about the ways Sokol Minnesota benefits you and what we can do to make our community even stronger.

*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)



## Successful Flavors of Slovakia Dinner on March 10 By Theresa Hudacek



Over 80 guests gathered at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Sunday, March 10, for the annual Flavors of Slovakia dinner, the first sit-down Slovak dinner since before the pandemic.

We have had several successful curbside dinners, but there is nothing like a sit-down dinner for the enjoyment of eating with family and friends.

The meal started with a small glass of kefir, a fermented milk drink, followed by *kapustnica*, a soup with sauerkraut, sausage, dried mushroom and spices, plus homemade bread from The Czech Baker.

We tried to get the soup recipe to print in this *Slovo*, but we were told there is no recipe! The cooks do not have measurements for the ingredients; they cook to taste. And it definitely tasted great!



The main course was *Bryndzové halušky* (potato dumplings with bryndza sheep cheese, bacon, and green onion tops) along with *holubky*, a meat-stuffed cabbage roll with tomato sauce. Finishing it all off was an amazing *krémeš*, a puff pastry with whipped cream and pudding.

Ryan Cihlar provided wonderful background accordion music throughout the meal, which lasted well over one-and-a-half hours. <https://ryancharlescihlar.com/>

Just before the dessert was served, Sokol President Lucy Brudnak Rose greeted the dinner guests with warm wishes from Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, as well as inviting everyone to several upcoming events at our Hall.



We are so thankful to all the volunteers that made this event happen: Miša Kotek, Dawn Bulera, Alena Youngberg, Maria Robbins and Killian, Sylvia Magana, Jyni Koček, Jean Draheim, Chuck Draheim, Lucy Brudnak Rose, Pat Andrie, Luboš Mareš, Emma Giancarlo, Roger Green, Bob Kotek, Tereza Treanor, Pam Langworthy, Richard Sargent, Theresa Hudacek, Denise Stibel, Sally Lieberman, Steve Ernest, Doreen McKenney, Louise Wessinger, Michael Topič, and Joyce Tesarek.



1. Pat Andrie and Richard Sargent served *krémeš* to eager guests. 2. Our superb accordion musician, Ryan Cihlar. 3. C.S.P.S. Hall filled with happy diners. 4. *Kapustnica* and homemade bread. 5. *Bryndzové halušky* with *holubky*. 6. *Krémeš*.

## 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)

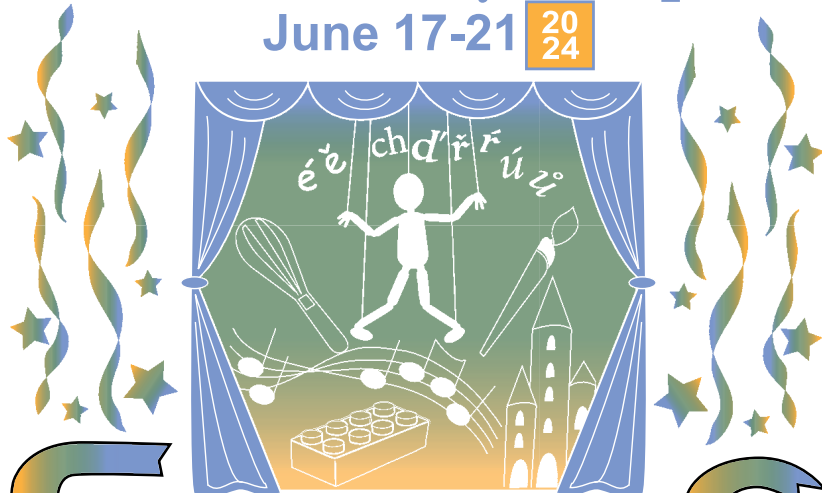
It will be a lively week for campers, filled with lots of great activities.

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  
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*Full refund if camp needs to be postponed.*

Questions? Contact:

Louise Wessinger 651-271-3601

## Announcing the Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Award for 2024 By Louise Wessinger

**The Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Award is a way to encourage and recognize outstanding participation of youth members and to foster a future generation of members and leaders for our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota organization.**

Up to three Sokol Minnesota youths will receive the award and a \$500 cash prize; \$400 each from Sokol Minnesota, plus \$100 each contributed by the Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera. A separate award with a \$100 prize is given for the Best Essay, donated by Louise Wessinger. Applications for the 2024 Youth Leadership Awards open on April 1.

The criteria for this award are as follows:

Applicants must be in their junior or senior year of high school. Their parent(s) need to be paid and active members of Sokol Minnesota for at least the current and preceding calendar year (2023 and 2024).

Applicants must actively participate in one or more Sokol Minnesota youth activities, such as Taneční Teen dancers, Sokol gymnastics, Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp, or Sokol Minnesota Youth Link; or actively participate in Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities activities; and be a regular volunteer at Sokol Minnesota events. Of course, over the last few years, because of COVID, some activities and events have not been held,

so prior activity involvement and volunteer help with our curbside or other events will be considered.

Applicants will be expected to complete the Youth Leadership Award application form outlining their activity participation, write a 300-word-maximum essay about how their participation in Sokol Minnesota activities has impacted their life, have a participation verification form signed by an adult director of their youth activity, a letter of recommendation from an adult director, and forms signed by adult leaders of Sokol Minnesota events where the applicant was a volunteer.

Applications must be submitted by July 1, 2024. All forms and further details can be found after April 1 on our website, [www.sokolmn.org/YLA](http://www.sokolmn.org/YLA)

Applicants can apply multiple times, but may receive the award only once. The Leadership and Best Essay Award recipients will be announced by September 1. All awards will be presented at the annual Sokol Minnesota Czech & Slovak Festival on September 29.

Questions? Contact: Blanka Brichta at [brichta.blanka@gmail.com](mailto:brichta.blanka@gmail.com)  
or Louise Wessinger at [louisewessinger@msn.com](mailto:louisewessinger@msn.com)

## 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

## Save the Dates • Upcoming events

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

7 p.m. drama performance with music starting at 6 p.m.



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

*The Accidental Hero* is the jaw-dropping true story about Czech freedom at the end of World War II. U.S. Army Colonel Matt Konop, as a unit commander, liberated the remote border villages his grandparents had left decades earlier for America. When he was able to use the Czech he grew up speaking on a Wisconsin farm, the Czech townspeople hailed him as a hero. “We are liberated by one of our own!” The experience altered Konop’s sense of identity, freeing him from an ignorance of his Czech heritage.

His grandson, Patrick Dewane, tells this amazing story through a multi-media one-man show that has toured over a hundred venues across the United States and has earned awards in the Czech Republic.

Before the show, starting at 6 p.m., Pavel Jany, Czech-born Minnesota jazz musician, performs as the crowd arrives. After the performance, national award-winning Minnesota writer Patricia Hampl interviews Dewane about

the show, his upcoming annual tour in the Czech Republic, and takes questions from the audience. Wine, beer, and *zelnicky* (sauerkraut crackers) available to purchase.

Patrick Dewane is donating his performance. All ticket sales go to support the Legacy Fund of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Also supporting this event are Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech Heritage Club, and the Honorary Czech Consulate /Minneapolis



Patrick Dewane

**Buy your \$15 general admission tickets now! Reserved seating section is sold out.**

<https://sokolmn.org/the-accidental-hero-pre-order-tickets/>



### Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Pageant

Come join us  
Saturday, April 13

for the 33rd annual Miss Czech Slovak  
Minnesota Pageant!

Crowning of 2024-25 Queen and Princesses  
and Junior Ambassadors receive their Sashes

**6 p.m. Dinner and Pageant \$25**

Traditional Czech pork and dumpling dinner

**7 p.m. Pageant \$5**

Purchase tickets at  
[missczechslovakminnesotapageant.com](http://missczechslovakminnesotapageant.com)

Held at the American Legion Hall  
102 Elm Avenue SW, Montgomery

### CELEBRATE CZECH, SLOVAK, AND POLISH CULTURES THROUGH LITERATURE



Join us for a special author's meeting with Mariusz Szczygieł, a prominent Polish journalist and author, whose unique blend of diary entries, essays, and literary reportage embodies the essence of Cross-Cultural Humanism. With over ten books to his name, Szczygieł offers captivating perspectives that transcend borders.

He has been recognized with prestigious awards such as the European Book Award and a double Nike Literary Award. His work has been published in 21 countries. While he resides in Warsaw, Szczygieł confesses that his soul truly lives in Prague. He speaks fluent Czech.

Saturday, April 27, 2024  
4 – 7pm  
C.S.P.S. Hall  
383 W Michigan St.  
St. Paul, MN 55102



Social Hour, Author's Presentation, Q&A, Book Sale and Signing Refreshments and Cash Bar  
**\$20** Suggested Donation  
**\$25** Ticket with reserved seating

<https://www.pamsm.org/events/explore-the-czech-slovak-and-polish-cultures-through-literature>

We can't wait to share this unique experience with you!



## Mushroom Crafting on Friday, April 12, at 7 p.m. at C.S.P.S. Hall By Jitka Sebek

To honor "The Remarkable World of Mushrooms," this year's introductory class from the Virtual University for the Third Age (VU3V), and to awaken our creativity, as well as to offer another popular fundraiser that benefits Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, please accept this invitation to participate in our Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities' spring event. Create or donate an item/items related to mushrooms (you can use the collage here as an inspiration).

We met last month on Saturday afternoon, March 23, on the third floor of the C.S.P.S. Hall to get inspired, to start on the project, and to bring and share materials and ideas.

**Join us on Friday, April 12, at 7 p.m. at the C.S.P.S. Hall for a Mushroom Friendly Friday to continue with inspirations, to start on your project, as well as to bring and share material and ideas, or even drop off your mushroom contribution for the fundraiser.**

**Drop off your donation at the C.S.P.S. Hall from now until Saturday morning May 4.** Put them in a bag (clear plastic preferred), labeled: "Jitka-mushroom project," and leave them in the classroom on the first floor. Thank you.

**Participate in bidding from May 5 to May 10. Link will open on May 5, 2024. Watch for the link on Sokol Minnesota's website (sokolmn.org), FaceBook, InstaGram, or E-blast.**

Winning items can be picked up on Friendly Friday, May 10, at 7 p.m. (or later, by arrangement).

You can create, donate, or participate in bidding or all three, but mostly.... Enjoy!!!!

Thank you for supporting  
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota!



## Save the Date! Sunday, August 11

### 94th Annual Minnesota Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

What: 94th annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic.

When: Sunday, August 11 noon-4 food served. Grounds open until 5. Rain or shine.

Where: 19201 Woodland Acres South Pine City, Minnesota 55063

Who: all Sokol brothers and sisters, along with the general public.

We have entertainment provided by musician Dave Carlson and the Lipa Slovak Dancers.

If interested in volunteering with food/beverage serving, set up or tear down please contact Scott or Kari Muyres at 763-226-0313.

Andy and Bob Marabella at the grill.



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)

## Sunshine Member News

Sokol Minnesota wishes a speedy recovery to member Tom Aubrecht.

*You will be out hitting the links in no time.*

### Sokol Minnesota Friendly Friday Evenings

2nd Friday of each month, 7-10 p.m.  
Free drop-in

**Friendly Friday on April 12 at 7 p.m.  
will be dedicated  
to mushroom-themed  
board games and activities.**

Family friendly cards and board games,  
fun, food, and friends.

Bring your own beverages and/or snacks to share.

### Fitness News!

Sokol Minnesota is in the process of establishing a class on self-defense for adults to be offered this spring.

Watch for details in the *Slovo*, E-blast and website.

We are also in the process of establishing a survey for members to see what class offerings adults might be interested in.

Questions or suggestions, contact  
[fitness@sokolmn.org](mailto:fitness@sokolmn.org)

### 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**  
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!*

## Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

By Steve Ernest

In February, four new members were approved by the Board.

**Jan Kostal** and **Rosina Bianco** of Shoreview, and **Catherine** and **Cailan Shannon** of Minnetrista, with interests in adult dance, the literature group, language, cooking and crafting classes, films, theater, music, dance, history and genealogy, and helping with events.

Welcome to our newest members!

XVII. VŠESOKOLSKÝ SLET  
30/6-5/7/2024 PRAHA



VEŘEJNÁ PŘEDSTAVENÍ SLETOVÝCH SKLADEB

1.6.2024 VEŘEJNÉ CVIČENÍ MORAVSKÉ BRÁNICE  
9.6.2024 KRAJSKÝ SLET BRNO  
5.-6.7.2024 VŠESOKOLSKÝ SLET PRAHA

[www.sokolmoravskebranice.cz](http://www.sokolmoravskebranice.cz)

[www.slet2024.cz](http://www.slet2024.cz)

June 30 to July 5, 2024 in Prague

# 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.

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)



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is proud to support the Czech and Slovak films in the 43rd Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival (MSPIFF43), April 11-25.

One of the largest and longest-running film festivals in the country, MSPIFF43 returns as an in-person festival, showcasing 200+ films from around the globe.

Screenings are at The Main Cinema, owned by The Film Society of Minneapolis Saint Paul, 115 Southeast Main Street. This five-screen cinema, along the historic Mississippi waterfront, is across the river from downtown Minneapolis.

Individual ticket price is \$15. The Film Society offers discounted tickets for \$12 to our organizations. Use code **CZSLMSPIFF43** when purchasing tickets, either online or at the box office.

MSPIFF43 also offers several opportunities to engage with the local and global film communities through an array of parties, discussion panels, and virtual events. For the full 2024 MSPIFF lineup and schedule: [www.mspfilm.org](http://www.mspfilm.org)

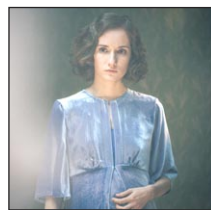
Donors supporting Czech and Slovak cinema at MSPIFF43 also include Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International, the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis, plus several cinema aficionados, including Sokol Minnesota member Marshall Toman.

*This article has information furnished by Kendall Murphy, Community Engagement Coordinator, MSPIFF.*



***BIG DREAMS (Děti Nagana)*, 2023, 101 minutes. Directed by Daniel Pánek. Czech Republic. Languages: Czech with English subtitles. Monday, April 15 at 1:50 p.m., Saturday, April 20 at 11:15 a.m.**

Inspired by the Czechs winning the gold at the 1998 Olympics, 11-year-old Dom suddenly pictures himself becoming a star goalie like his idol Dominik Hašek. The only problem is his parents doubt his abilities and are unwilling to support what they perceive as yet another one of his short-lived interests. Plus, he doesn't know how to skate. In this Bad News Bears style dramedy, a plucky middle schooler recruits a handful of other underestimated small-town kids and builds a team on the sly. With a little help, the kids ingeniously figure out how to play hockey, and soon face off a tougher, more experienced team from the next village. After taking a few hits, Dom and friends show themselves and their community what's possible, learning that nobody is more than a team, and no dream is too big. Age 10+. Director's bio: Daniel Pánek (1988, Prague) is a filmmaker whose feature credits include *Taxi 121* (2016) and *The Show* (2020).



***WE HAVE NEVER BEEN MODERN (Usvit)*, 2023, 117 minutes. Directed by Matěj Chlupáček. Czech Republic and Slovakia. English subtitles. Sunday, April 14 at 1:45 p.m., Tuesday, April 23 at 7:10 p.m.**

The discovery of a dead intersex infant amidst the rubble in the newly built factory town of Svit in 1937 sends shockwaves through a society fixated on only one kind of progress. This masterfully-crafted drama about privilege, prejudice, and gender identity features a memorably tart-tongued heroine in pregnant Helena (Eliška Křenková), the beautiful young wife of slick factory manager Alois (Miroslav Konig). Helena, who dropped out of medical school, is serving as a nurse for a few hours each day at the factory. As she follows up on her own theory about the dead infant with her former mentor, and confronts the fears and biases of her new social coterie, her illusions about the happy life that awaits her soon perish. The smartly-written film encompasses a character study, a marital drama, and a detective mystery, while also dropping hints about the historical disaster soon to come.

***WHITE PLASTIC SKY (Műanyag égbolt)*, 2023, 111 minutes. Directed by Tibor Bánóczki and Sarolta Szabó. Co-production: Hungary with Slovakia. English subtitles. Wednesday, April 17 at 9:40 p.m., Tuesday, April 23 at 2 p.m.**



In the future, humans live in a biodome, where they're implanted with a seed that turns them into a tree for needed oxygen. In this animated dystopian film, set in 2123, people are compliant to surrender their body at age 50 to the greater good of survival. But when Nora, a grief-stricken woman, elects to undergo her implant early, her husband Stefan is in a race against time to reverse the process. Using eye-popping rotoscoping techniques, Hungarian animation duo Tibor Bánóczki and Sarolta Szabó, working with leading geologists, botanists, and meteorologists in their home country, have created a dystopian future like you've never seen before. Part love story, part dystopia, part eco-fantasia, *White Plastic Sky* is a pure cinematic experience.



***GREEN BORDER (Zielona Granica)*, 2023, 147 minutes. Directed by Agnieszka Holland. Co-Production: Poland, France, the Czech Republic, and Belgium. English subtitles. Friday, April 12 at 3:50 p.m., Sunday, April 14 at 6:50 p.m.**

A family of Syrian refugees, an English teacher from Afghanistan, and a border guard all meet on the Polish-Belarusian border during the recent humanitarian crisis in Belarus. At the "green border," an almost impassable swamp between Poland and Belarus, the immigrants struggle to reach the former, which is doing everything possible to keep them out, with traumatic results. Agnieszka Holland, one of the world's greatest living filmmakers, has focused her camera on her native Poland in this devastating film about the refugee crisis. Shot documentary-style, and from a shifting perspective (from refugees to border guards), Holland's magnum opus takes a god's eye view of this immigrant crisis, and the result is a stunning work of filmmaking. Acclaimed around the world, but condemned in Poland, *Green Border* must not be missed.

## Czech Music at C.S.P.S. Hall Celebrates the Czech Year of Music By Renáta Tichá



On Sunday, March 10, we had the privilege to hear Czech classical music at the C.S.P.S. Hall performed by Ambroš Duo Prague, with Zuzana Ambroš on the piano and Miroslav Ambroš on violin. The concert was organized by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center (CSCC) and co-sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of the renowned Czech composer, Bedřich Smetana (1824-1864).

2024 has been designated the *Year of Music* in the Czech Republic. It was fortuitous that along with Smetana, the Ambroš Duo Prague also played pieces by Antonín Dvořák, in the same building where Dvořák himself attended a concert in his honor in 1893. In addition, the Duo played a violin solo from *Radúz and Mahulena, Op. 16* by Josef Suk. Interestingly, Miroslav trained under Suk's descendent.

After the concert, the musicians took questions from the audience. Saint Paul was the Duo's last stop on this their seventh tour of the United States.



Embassy of the Czech Republic  
Washington, DC

### Bohemian Rhapsody Celebrating the Czech Year of Music

The Embassy of the Czech Republic invites you to submit a photograph or a video of themselves or their child(ren) celebrating Czech music!

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

In its fifteenth year, the festival will highlight music and celebrate 200 years since the birth of the Czech classical composer, Bedřich Smetana, known as the father of Czech music.

- Send the photograph or video to [czechembassypr@gmail.com](mailto:czechembassypr@gmail.com)
- Deadline is April 30, 2024

See page 10 in the March 2024 *Slovo* for more information.

### Dumpling Master Class on March 17 By Sally Lieberman

The Dumpling Master Class with Míša Giancarlo Kotek on March 17 was popular, full (15 attended), and fun. It was the first in-person cooking class at C.S.P.S. Hall since before the pandemic. Participants learned to make bread dumplings and potato dumplings in this hands-on workshop.



Peeling pre-cooked potatoes for the potato dumplings. Barbara Skrivanek, Naomi Perman, Heather Mikrut, and Steve Meduna. Gary Novak is standing in the background.



MaryJo Kacvinsky (back turned), Myra Grignon, Míša Kotek, Joyce Tesarek, and Karen Levra (back turned)

Míša discussed the different kinds of flours available in the Czech Republic. We used authentic Czech coarse (*hrubá*) and half-coarse (*polohruba*) flours in our dumplings. Some in the class make dumplings at home, but were eager to sharpen their skills; others were new to the craft. Míša also gave suggestions about how the dumplings are typically used as part of a meal. Everyone took home recipes with detailed instructions, as well as batches of fully cooked, ready-to-use bread and potato dumplings!

Look for Míša's next class; "Christmas in July," baking Czech Christmas cookies (to be listed soon on <https://sokolmn.org/all-events/>).



Miss Jordan Princess and Queen dancing with Scott Lindner and Jason Brozovich of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers.

## Montgomery 24th Annual *Masopust* Celebration By Jean Keogh

The 24th Annual *Masopust* (Czech Carnevale or Mardi Gras) Celebration on February 18 was an afternoon of partying at the Rustic Farmer/Revival on Main in downtown Montgomery.

As is the tradition, two town officials went to the mayor (this year portrayed by Fred Simon, Sokol Minnesota's vice president), to ask for permission to have a party, led by with the *Masopust* King before the lean (meatless) days of Lent. 2023 *Masopust* King Luke Skluzacek crowned Blake Herman the 2024 *Masopust* King. The Montgomery Area Lions awarded out-going King Luke a \$500 scholarship.

There was plenty of authentic Czech music by George's Concertina Band. The Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers performed two sets of traditional Czech folk dances; they also taught several dances to *Masopust* visitors. The Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Pageant Board, the Veseli Area Lions, and the Czech Sis Kitchen provided authentic Czech food. Czech Heritage Club had Czech merchandise and the Montgomery Arts & Heritage Center sold *Masopust* mementoes.

Among the dignitaries and honored guests were Faribault Mayor Kevin Voracek; queens and ambassadors from Lonsdale, Jordan, the Miss Czech-Slovak Pageant, and Kolacky Days; and Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera.

### Baking Classes with *Maškrtnica* April 19 and April 21 at C.S.P.S. Hall

*Maškrtnica* ([www.maskrtnica.cz](http://www.maskrtnica.cz)), celebrated Czech baking expert, teacher, and blogger based in Prague.

**Sweet Yeast Dough: Friday, April 19, 4-8 p.m.**

**Sourdough Bread: Sunday, April 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Hands-on classes

Participants will take home samples

Enrollment limit: 16 for each workshop

Prepayment required

Fee per class: \$60 Sokol member  
\$75 non-member

**Register and Pay: Events at [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org)**

### 6th Annual Czech May Day Celebration in Montgomery Sunday, May 5, noon-5 p.m

- Heritage Park, corner of Vine Avenue and 1st Street North in historic downtown Montgomery.
  - Raising the traditional May Pole followed by ribbon dances. Also a special May Pole for Children.
  - Czech Area Concertina Club playing traditional Czech polkas.
  - Performances by the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Adult Folk Dancers and the Sokol Minnesota Children and Teen Dancers.
  - Czech food and Czech beer.
  - Limited seating, please bring your own chairs.
- Information: Jim Mladek: 507-364-5659  
Jean Keogh: phone or text: 952-334-2172



Acclaimed Czech genealogist Jan Dus (at right with Mark Dillon of CGSI) visited the Twin Cities the third weekend of February and spoke to CGSI and Sokol Minnesota members while at a Friday evening fish-pyrohy fry at the Ukrainian Community Center. Jan, a Presbyterian minister, detailed the substantial ongoing aid work that the Camino charitable group, which he founded, has been doing in Ukraine since 2022.



### Genealogy & Cultural Symposium

April 20-21, 2024, Cedar Rapids, IA

*Forgotten Czech, Slovak & Carpatho-Rusyn Heroes*

**\$99 all-inclusive fee for CGSI & NCSML members**

**Saturday** Night at the Museum with the Czech Plus Band

**Sunday Presentations** 8:30am to 4:30pm

- Keynote Speaker from Slovakia's Kasigarda Museum of Emigration
- Czech and Slovak Pilots in the Battle of Britain
- Everyday Heroism at Theresienstadt
- A Greek Catholic Bishop Who Spoke Out Against Fascism and Communism
- A Courageous Envoy Honored by Czechoslovakia, Romania and Serbia
- CGSI's Czech and Slovak Nationwide Cemetery Mapping Project
- Developing a Genealogy Search Strategy for Your Family
- How I Did it: Genealogy searches from CGSI members who have journeyed overseas

Fee includes Czech pork loin luncheon at noon  
Plus a special afternoon toast to NCSML's 50th anniversary

**Register at [CGSI.org](http://CGSI.org)**

**<https://cgsi.org/2024-cgisi-symposium>**



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

By Tom Aubrecht from Recording Secretary Theresa Hudachek's Minutes

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors (BOD) meeting of February 15, 2024, was called to order by President Lucy Brudnak Rose at 7 p.m.

Membership Director Steve Ernest, who led the most recent Sokol Minnesota By-Laws update, noted that appointment of a Rental Committee Chair who is an elected BOD member is needed. This will facilitate regular reporting from the committee.

Following the January BOD Retreat, several items need follow-up:

Lucy Rose noted we have had many requests to host events at the C.S.P.S. Hall over the next few months. A committee is proposed to review the cost per hour for use of various Hall spaces by Sokol Minnesota-affiliated vs. external groups. Joyce Tesarek will bring this issue to the Finance committee to get a current breakdown. The review will include contacting other civic organizations to get information on how they treat such requests. The committee will bring a proposed rental fee rubric to the BOD for approval. Clarifying our relationship with the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities (*Škola*) will be an additional goal of the committee.

Lucy also noted Sokol South Omaha is hosting the 2024 Western District Slet on April 27, 2024. They are requesting a donation for their Trophy Fund (we have donated to this in the past), as well as a \$50 donation toward the Special Assessment Fund. This was tabled to an email vote until more information is received from Mary Cahill or Jason Brozovich.

Education Director Sally Lieberman raised for discussion whether individuals should be paid for presenting Sokol Minnesota-sponsored events vs. expected to volunteer. Jean Draheim will connect with Sally to discuss the difference between classes and activities.

Activities Director Jeannie Draheim: For *The Accidental Hero* performance at the Hall on April 13, a budget for incidentals of up to \$150 was requested; this was approved.

A *Slovo* subscription price increase from \$15 to \$20 has been suggested because of the increased cost of printing and postage. The increase was approved.

Education Director Sally Lieberman confirmed details for the Dumpling Master Class on March 17. For the Petr Hruska poetry event on March 29, \$150 for refreshments and having a donation basket were approved.

Budget and Finance Committee Chair Joyce Tesarek noted the committee is managing treasurer tasks while the position is open. The account balances were reported. Regarding the Czech Ministry Grant, *Škola* needs to request awarded grant funds from Sokol Minnesota. ASO grants will be requested in three categories.

Membership Director Steve Ernest presented four people for membership; they were approved. Of the total of 327 members, 90 still owe the renewal fee. Steve will send another reminder.

Gaming Manager Ed Hamernik presented and received approval for the January Actual Expenditure and the February Budget. Transferring the City of Saint Paul tax error refund to our General Fund was approved.

Building and Property Trustees Committee Chair Bob Kotek reported that a bid was received from Discount Window for replacing five windows. Replacing the windows has received approval from the Saint Paul Historical Preservation group. The details have been submitted to Finance for preparing a grant request. For AC to cool the Hall dining room, details have also been submitted to finance for a grant request. Meetings are being scheduled with two additional elevator companies for upgrades and maintenance contract consideration.

## **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 \$20 annually.

For a subscription, please include name, address, phone number, email address and a \$20 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.

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

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Sokol Minnesota Ad Designer: Doreen McKenney (page 1,4,5,7,16).

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, Mary Cahill, Theresa Hudachek, Jean Keogh, Sally Lieberman, Doreen McKenney, Kari Muyres, Jitka Sebek, Renáta Tichá, Louise Wessinger, and Gwen Willems.

Additional photographs, ads, or illustrations in this issue (not already noted): Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Embassy of the Czech Republic, Patrick Dewane, Mark Dillon, Theresa Hudachek, Jean Keogh, M. L. Kucera, Sally Lieberman, Doreen McKenney, Minnesota Polish Medical Society, MSPIFF43, Kari Muyres, Joyce Tesarek, Renáta Tichá, and Gwen Willems.

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

*Seven Czech Women: Portraits of Courage, Humanism, and Enlightenment* by Josette Baer. Columbia University Press: New York, 200 pages; 2015. Available at libraries and bookstores.

*Seven Czech Women: Portraits of Courage, Humanism, and Enlightenment* is the first historical study in English portraying the lives and fates of Czech women. These three oral histories and four narratives give us views on disparate Czech women's lives from the 1870s on.

The author, Josette Baer, a Swiss researcher and adjunct professor at the University of Zurich, also wrote a volume on seven Slovak women. Read together, the books show differences in political circumstances in the recent history of Czech and Slovak women. She includes a helpful abbreviation list, chronology, bibliography, and index in this book. Baer's 1996 Ph.D. dissertation was titled *Politics as Pragmatic Morality. The Notion of Democracy in the Political Thought of Tomáš G. Masaryk and Václav Havel*.

I was drawn to *Seven Czech Women* when I was looking for material in English on **Milada Horáková** (1901-1950). The chapter on her is detailed and lengthy and her tragic biography inspiring and sad.

Before WWII, Horáková was a prominent member of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party, lawyer, advocate for women's rights, and mother. After the annexation of the Czech lands, she joined the resistance. Horáková was arrested by the Nazis in 1940 and imprisoned until released by American forces in 1945. She was elected to the Czech National Assembly, but forced to resign when the Communist Party took power in 1948.

The communists soon embarked on a brutal course of eliminating the opposition, real or not. Citizens were to be "ideologically disciplined." According to Baer, "veterans of both wars, members of Masaryk's *légie* [Czechoslovak Legion], intellectuals and politicians who had survived Nazi concentration camps, bishops, priests, and vicars, members of Beneš' exile government [1939-1945] and everybody representing the values of the first republic had to be silenced." As a proponent of democracy and a friend of Beneš', Horáková was targeted.

She was arrested by the communists in 1949, subjected to the first communist show trial, and convicted. This tireless advocate for improving the lives of Czechs was executed by hanging in 1950.

I was also fascinated by the chapter on **Alice Garrigue Masaryková** (1879-1966), daughter of Tomáš Masaryk, founding father and president of Czechoslovakia from 1918-1935. She studied history and philosophy at Charles Ferdinand University in Prague and taught at a girls' high school. She was jailed by the Austrians for nine months in 1915-1916 on false charges of anti-Austrian activities. Using her skills and interest in medicine and social work, she went on to found the Czechoslovak Red Cross in 1919 and chair it, fighting contagious diseases and hunger. After

her mother Charlotte died, Alice took on Charlotte's role as First Lady of the Czechoslovak Republic, joining her father on official state visits and receptions.

The other profiles vary in length, quality, and criteria. Baer wrote that she had three criteria: that the women have a Czech cultural and political identity; visibility in the Czech, Czechoslovak, and international public eye; and physical presence in the Czech lands. However, Baer made three exceptions to them. In addition to Horáková and Masaryková, the profiled women include:

**Emma Destinn** (1878-1930), an internationally famous opera singer, Czech patriot, and supporter of an independent Czechoslovakia. She introduced the music of the top Czech composers to the world by translating libretti by Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák into German. Her singing career peaked with a New York Metropolitan Opera contract.

**Eva 'Mimi' Jiráňková** (1921-2015), Czechoslovak citizen born in Prague who lived under the First Republic's democracy and the Nazi occupation. Her husband survived Terezin and Auschwitz; he was not Jewish but his stepfather was a member of Beneš' exile government in Great Britain. When he was released in 1948, they fled with their daughter, eventually settling in Great Britain, where Eva worked as a fashion consultant. After 1989, she visited Prague regularly.

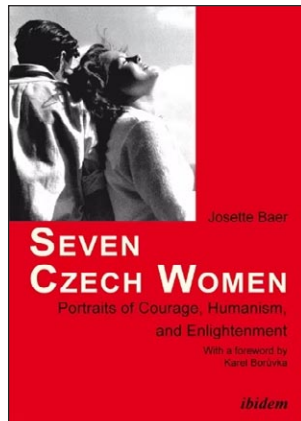
**Věra Čáslavská** (b. 1942), gymnast who won Olympic medals in Tokyo in 1964 and Mexico City in 1968, two months after Warsaw Pact troops invaded Czechoslovakia. Baer considers her the most successful female athlete in Czech history. Čáslavská signed Ludvík Vaculík's anti-communist 2000 Words manifesto in 1968. Because of this, she was unemployed for five years and became *persona non grata*.

**Nataša Lišková** (b. 1949), children's magazine writer, production assistant in Czech television, and later freelance journalist. She was asked to join the Communist Party and to become an informer for the St.B, both of which she declined. As a result, she was blacklisted in 1984.

**Tereza Maxová** (b. 1971), the first internationally known Czech model in the early 1990s. She founded the Tereza Maxová Foundation, which helps neglected and homeless Czech children. She says the foundation "fills the gap between what the state provides and what the abandoned children need."

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 the discussion of *A Brief History of Living Forever: A Novel* by Jaroslav Kalfař at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 27.



## Czech Honorary Consul News

April 2024

On February 29, several members of the Minnesota Consular Corps had lunch with the Ambassador from the Republic of Kosovo at the American Swedish Institute (ASI), Minneapolis. Each explained their roles and duties for their sending countries. (L-R) Julia K. Miller (Minnesota guide for the Ambassador), Mykola Megits (Minnesota Trade Office), Beth Richardson (Consul General of Canada/Minneapolis), Patrick



Photo: ASI

Ledray (Romania and Moldova), M. L. Kucera (Czech Republic), Ilir Dugolli (Ambassador from Kosovo to the United States), Miro Medved (Slovenia), Bruce Karstadt (Sweden), Teresa Olson (Chile), Josh Torkelson (Sweden), Andrea Novak Neumann (Croatia).



At the Walker Art Museum, Minneapolis, on 16 February, several Czech cinema fans met after the screening of *Daisies (Sedmikrásky)*, a 1966 Czechoslovakian surrealist psychological comedy-drama film written and directed by Věra Chytilová. The playfully surrealist film is considered a landmark example of the Czech New Wave intersecting with feminist cinema. The movie was part of the Walker's winter exhibition, *Multiple Realities: Experimental Art in the Eastern Bloc, 1960s–1980s*. (L-R): M. L. Kucera, Sam Simmons, Kristi Simmons, Stáňa Gerlach, Jitka Sebek. Missing: Michaela Wentz and Dita Masters.

Czech and Slovak Culture Center of Minnesota (CSCC) held its annual meeting on 10 February at the University Club in Saint Paul. Several upcoming programs are being held in cooperation with other local Czech and Slovak organizations. (L-R front) President Renáta Tichá, Treasurer Bea Flaming, M.L. Kucera, Joyce Tesarek. (Back) Gwen Willems, Patricia M. Bergh, Vice President Jan Knudtson, Vice President Cheryl Nelson, and Andy Kozak.



continued on page 15

## Have You Renewed Your Membership?

Please do so now to stay connected to all our activities and to keep receiving *Slovo*.

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 is to go online, where you can update your contact information and pay your dues via PayPal. Go to [www.sokolmn.org/membership](http://www.sokolmn.org/membership).

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

- The second way to renew is by mail, send a check made out to: **Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota** and mail to: **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.

## Sokol Volunteer Positions Open: Treasurer, Finance Committee, and Slovo Copy Editor

**Treasurer:** 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.

**Finance Committee Member:** The Finance Committee also has an opening.

**If interested or for more information contact**  
**Finance@Sokolmn.org or call Joyce Tesarek at 612-232-2993**

**Slovo Copy Editor:** Here's a great opportunity to help promote Sokol Minnesota's physical, educational, cultural, and social programs by working on the *Slovo*, our 10x/year newsletter. The *Slovo* position of copy editor/co-managing editor is open. Coordinate with event organizers to get articles, pictures, and information on a monthly schedule from contributors, reviewers, and affiliated Czech and Slovak groups. Editing articles, some writing, proofreading. Work with members and get to know all about our organization. We have a great supportive *Slovo* team. Recommended: attend monthly Board meetings (virtual).

**If interested or for more information**  
**call Joyce Tesarek: 612-232-2993 or Mary Cahill: 651-738-9470**

# Czech Honorary Consul News

April 2024



The Czech Republic, along with Poland and Hungary, commemorated their 25th anniversary of accession to NATO (North Atlantic Treaty

Organization) on 12 March at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Museum and Library in Independence, Missouri. The original treaty with these three nations was signed at the Truman

Library on 12 March 1999. At that signing, Czech-born Madeleine Albright, US Secretary of State (1997-2001), stated, “Another great gift the Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary bring to our Alliance for freedom is the living memory of living without freedom. NATO’s success has enabled generations protected by the Alliance to grow up and grow old under democratic rule.”



Photo: Gary Lofquist

The original NATO treaty was signed by President Truman, 75 years ago (4 April 1949) with 12 countries; today there are 32, with Finland (2023) and Sweden (2024) as the newest members.

This Commemoration Wreath stood in front of the tomb of President Harry S. Truman (1945-1953), with ribbons from the Czech Republic (white, red, blue), Poland (red, white), Hungary (red, white, green). Delegations were led by Consuls General from Chicago: Jakub Utěšený (Czech Republic), Dr. Pawel Zyzak, (Republic of Poland), and Tamás Kovács (Hungary).



At the luncheon, I was privileged to sit with Jan Hladik (Head of the Economic Section, Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C.), Abigail Manners (2023-2024 Czech-Slovak Queen/Missouri),

Emma Carlin (2023 Czech-Slovak Queen/Kansas), Hanna Andringa (2022 Czech-Slovak Queen/Kansas), M.L. Kucera (Honorary Czech Consul/Minneapolis), and Pavel Eichner (Director of North America and Australia Region of Czech Trade/Chicago.) We stood in front of the mural of the Pullman car from which President Truman (1884-1972) campaigned across the United States in 1948.



Members of the Czech delegation included Pavel Eichner (Director of North America and Australia Region of Czech Trade/Chicago), Layne Piece, Major General Daryl Bohac (USAF, Retired); Sharon Valasek (Czech Honorary Consul/Kansas City and event organizer), Jakub Utěšený (Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago), M. L. Kucera (Czech Honorary Consul/Minneapolis), Miluše Šašková-Pierce (Czech Honorary Consul/Lincoln, NE), Jan Hladik (Head of the Economic Section, Embassy of the Czech Republic /Washington, D.C.).

“Doing Business with the Czech Republic” seminar was held 13 March at the World Trade Center/Kansas City, co-organized by Sharon Valasek, (Czech Honorary Consul/Kansas City) and the World Trade Center, attended by Kansas and Missouri business people. Presentations by the Czech officials Jakub Utěšený Jan Hladik, Pavel Eichner, plus Matj Zahradník (Director of East Coast Operations of Czech Invest/New York).



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



# April - August 2024

## Czech and Slovak Gift Shop

by appointment only:  
[giftshop@sokolmn.org](mailto:giftshop@sokolmn.org)



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Czech & Slovak  
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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* April 2024

### "The Accidental Hero"

Multi-media one-man performance  
by Actor Patrick Dewane



Saturday, April 13, 2024

C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul

#### Widely-acclaimed performance

"The Accidental Hero" is a jaw-dropping true story about Czech freedom at the end of World War II. Patrick Dewane's grandfather, U.S. Army Colonel Matt Konop, as a unit commander, liberated the remote border villages his grandparents had left for America decades earlier.

#### Pre-order your tickets online

<https://sokolmn.org/the-accidental-hero-pre-order-tickets/>

\$15 general admission • Reserved Seats - Sold Out

#### Program

- 6 p.m. • Live music welcome by Czech-born Pavel Jany  
• Cash bar and sauerkraut crackers
- 7 p.m. • "The Accidental Hero" performance  
• Patricia Hampl interviews Patrick Dewane after the performance

Event supporters: Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Czech Heritage Club, and Czech Honorary Consulate/Minneapolis.  
Special thank you to Patrick Dewane for donating ticket sales to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota!