

CZECH AND SLOVAK



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

SLOVO

June/July 2024
vol. 47 no. 5

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

August Slovo articles
due July 1

Sokol Minnesota
Singers

June 4
10 a.m.-noon.

Friendly Friday
Evening Social

June 14 & July 12, 7 p.m.

Children's Cultural
Day Camp
at C.S.P.S. Hall

June 17-21

Kolo Bike Club

June 16, July 21

See page 3

Bohemian Flats Park
Get-together

July 13, 10 a.m.

See page 16

94th Sokol Camp
Booya Picnic

Sunday, August 11,

See page 9

Sokol Gift Shop

open during events
and by appointment

35th Czech & Slovak
Festival

Sunday, September 29



Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota



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

Nazdar
**SOKOL
MINNESOTA
PARTICIPANTS**



35

th annual

**CZECH & SLOVAK
FESTIVAL**

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, September 29 2024

FREE Admission 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Public Welcome

Ethnic Food • Czech-style Beer • Music • Sokol Gift Shop • Dance and Gymnastic Performances
Children's Games • Silent Auction • Street Vendors • Exhibits • Special Guests • Accessible Facility

Become a volunteer: festival@sokolmn.org

Prezidentčin komentář/President's Notes by Lucy Rose

It's hard to believe that it's already June! The time is really flying by, but maybe that's not such a bad thing because it means that our 35th annual Czech & Slovak Festival on September 29 will be here before you know it. In the meantime, the hops vines at the C.S.P.S. Hall continue to make their ascent toward the roof, and the flower beds that flank the parking lot continue to alternately gain and cede territory to the weeds that seem to think they belong there. I'm actually only half complaining about the weeds, as they give me an excuse to come to the Hall and spend time taking care of the space we are so fortunate to have.

We have had quite the volunteer shuffle here at the *Slovo* over the last few months. Our long-time editor, Tom Aubrecht, stepped down earlier this year to more fully enjoy his retirement and focus on his health. Tom dedicated countless hours over many years to organizing each month's issue of the *Slovo*, making sure that contributors submitted their articles on time and that each issue was filled with interesting and useful information for our membership to read. Tom did an incredible job as editor over those many years, and his work with the *Slovo* was only one of the several hats he wore as an active volunteer and member of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. We offer our deepest thanks to Tom for his dedication to ensuring the continued success of the *Slovo* over so many years!

Following Tom's retirement as editor, Mary Cahill and Marit Lee Kucera dutifully stepped up to serve as interim editors of the most recent *Slovo* issue while we searched for a new volunteer editor. While I feel like I share this sentiment in nearly every President's Notes column, I can't stress enough how grateful I am for the level of dedication among our membership. There exists among us an incredible commitment to maintaining the traditions of both our Czech and Slovak heritage and those of our broader Sokol organization. My sincerest thanks to Mary and Marit for making sure the last two issues of the *Slovo* made it uninterrupted to the mailboxes and inboxes of our membership. And with this month's issue, I am thrilled to welcome our new *Slovo* editor, Kelly Rynda, to the team. Welcome, Kelly, thank you for joining the *Slovo* team, and I look forward to working with you!

As we move into the summer months, the frenzied pace of events at the C.S.P.S. Hall will slow down just a bit. Gymnastics classes take a much-deserved hiatus while the kids are on summer break, and the same is true of the *Taneční Mládež* and *Taneční* Teens youth dance groups. Although there will be a bit less buzz around the Hall during the summer months, we do have a few exciting things coming up in June and July. We will continue to host our regular Friendly Fridays get-togethers during the summer, with the June event scheduled for June 14 and the July gathering scheduled for July 12. Please join us at the Hall at 7 p.m. for this monthly opportunity to socialize with other members of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Also coming up at the Hall is the Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp on June 17-21. We are looking forward to another exciting week of the 100 percent volunteer-run camp (have I mentioned how wonderful our dedicated members are?), celebrating its 26th anniversary this year with a theme of fairs and puppetry. Cultural Day Camp co-directors Doreen McKenney and Louise Wessinger do a wonderful job each year introducing campers to a truly diverse array of Czech and Slovak cultural traditions, including food, arts and crafts, Czech language, folktales, gymnastics, dancing, and more.

As we make our way through the summer months, I wish you a relaxing June and July. As always, thank you for supporting our Sokol community with your membership and please don't hesitate to contact me at president@sokolmn.org if you are looking for opportunities to share your talents and skills at one of our upcoming events. *Nazdar!*



Lucy
Brudnak Rose

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2024 BOD (Board of Directors)

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

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 or www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota



Use this
QR code
to go to
sokolmn.org

Easter Family Day 2024 by Jitka Sebek

Families and friends of the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities look forward to our traditional spring Easter celebration every year with hopes for sunny skies, friendly talks, and some interesting presenters.

We knew that braiding spring whips, dying eggs, decorating honey cakes and having a potluck lunch together would already be a welcome Easter gathering, but little did we know that a local Sokol Minnesota friend would come with a sack full of books to make the morning even more memorable.



Karen Wald speaks with Family Day participants.



Karen Wald generously spent her whole

Saturday morning answering questions and talking with individual families, letting the children surround her and ask questions about her mom. Just recently, many children had a chance to watch the movie *One Life*, about Sir Nicholas Winton and his race to rescue hundreds of children from Czechoslovakia before the Nazi occupation closed the borders. To the children's surprise, they had a chance to talk to the daughter of one of the children saved by Sir Nicholas. Just like wars and holocaust do not bring anything good, the findings about Ms. Wald's mom were not all happy; she was fortunately reunited with her parents, but had already made new friends, was proficient in another language, and the rise of communism eventually drove her away from her homeland again.



Our school children were fascinated by the stories, and parents considered how they would cope with alienated children, war horrors, and governmental changes. We had so much to talk about and felt proud of all the heroes around us. Happy spring!

Participants use multicolor beeswax and patiently apply it to eggs using metal pins.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

YLA

Youth Leadership Award  2024

The Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Awards are 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 YLA and a \$500 cash prize; \$400 each from Sokol Minnesota, plus \$100 each contributed by Honorary Czech Consul M. L. Kucera.

A separate award and \$100 prize is given for the Best Essay, donated by Louise Wessinger.

Applications for the 2024 Youth Leadership Awards opened April 1.

The criteria for applying for the award is outlined on our Sokol website www.sokolmn.org

Applications must be submitted by July 1, 2024.

Questions? Contact: Blanka Brichta brichta.blanka@gmail.com or Louise Wessinger louisewessinger@msn.com

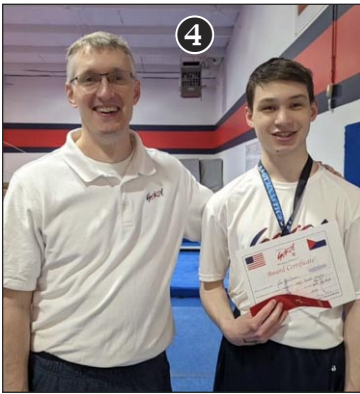
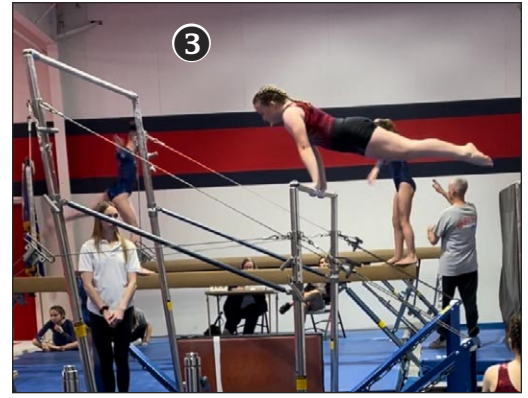
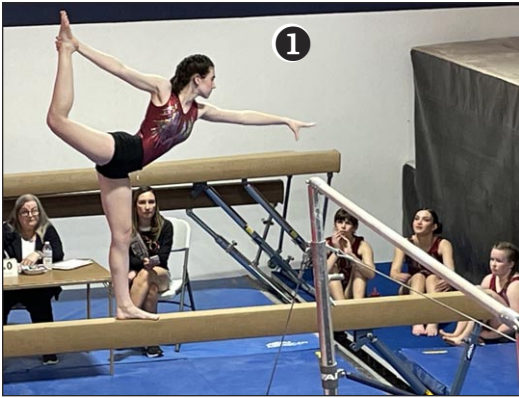
Kolo Sokol Bike Club

Scheduled ride dates 2024:

- May 19
- June 16
- July 21
- August 18
- September 15
- October 20



Rides are 2-3 hours long. Third Sunday of each month. Meet and leave at the C.S.P.S. Hall at 10 a.m. Info: sokolmn.org/bike



Western District *Slet* 2024 by Jason Brozovich and Mary Cahill

This year's annual Western District *Slet* (*slet* means "gathering" in Czech) was hosted by Sokol South Omaha in Omaha, Nebraska, on April 27. The gymnastics competition included competitors from Sokol Cedar Rapids (Iowa), Sokol Crete (Nebraska), Sokol South Omaha, and Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Sokol Minnesota was proudly represented by six gymnasts, Aaron A., Amari C., Anna N., Jas G., Norah T., and Owen R.



Congratulations to our gymnasts, who performed well and were excellent representatives of Sokol Minnesota. Winning first place in their respective age categories were gymnasts Jas G., Owen R., and Aaron A.

Receiving second and fourth place in their respective age category were Anna N. and Amari C., with Norah T. receiving fourth place in her age category.

A second-place team trophy was awarded to Aaron, Anna, Amari, and Norah.

Sokol Minnesota could not be prouder of all our gymnasts.

Historically, the drive to Omaha has been accompanied by winter snowstorms and ice storms, but this year it was tornadoes. Almost all the coaches, gymnasts, and families encountered the F5 tornado that made its way through Nebraska and western Iowa. Several of us were just a mile or so from the tornado that crossed I-80 and created considerable debris, flipped a truck, and eventually destroyed significant portions of several small towns in Iowa.



1. Aaron A. on the balance beam. 2. H.S. grad coaches Lillie C., Anna N., and Aaron A. 3. Norah T. on unevens. 4. Jason and Jas G. 5. Owen R., Mary, Jason, and Jas G. 6. The giant tornado encountered on the way to Omaha!



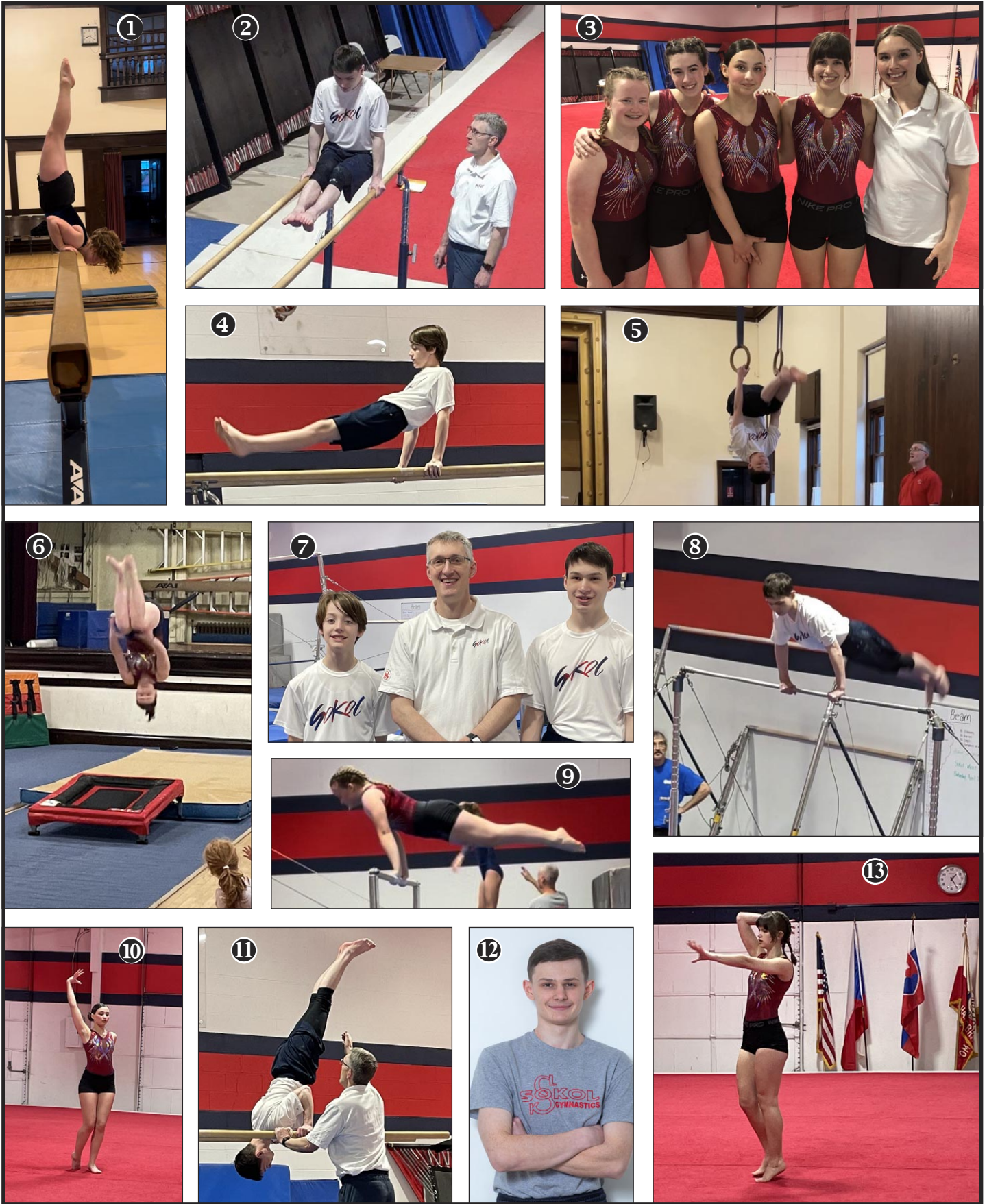
Outdoor Spring Cleanup by Doreen McKenney

Earth Day at the C.S.P.S. Hall, where a few volunteers braved a 27-degree windchill and light cover of snow to collect litter from the grounds.

Front row: Norah T., Mary Cahill and Charlie.
Back row: Elliot T., M. L. Kucera, and Glynis Grostephan.
Not pictured: Doreen McKenney

Some of the group's impressive haul of trash from a successful spring cleanup.





Western District Slet 2024 1. Norah T. on beam. 2. Jas G. on parallel bars with Jason B. 3. Norah T., Aaron A., Amari C., Anna N., and Coach Siri Schroeder. 4. Owen R. 5. Jas G., on rings. 6. Lili C. vaulting. 7. Owen R., Coach Jason Brozovich, Jas G. 8. Jas G. on high bar. 9. Norah T. on unevens. 10. Amari C. 11. Jas G. on parrallel bars with Jason Brozovich spotting. 12. Mitchell G. sporting Sokol t-shirt. 13. Ann T.

Gymnastics Program Graduating Seniors by Jason Brozovich and Mary Cahill



Aaron Armstrong

Aaron started gymnastics with Sokol Minnesota at age ten, has been an active class participant for most of the last eight years, and started competing in 2019. Aaron has been a class instructor for the past six months, stepping in to assist with instructing tots and small girls when Mitchell Gillman reported to the army in January. Prior to officially instructing, Aaron graciously assisted or led classes when a scheduled instructor was unable to make a class at the last minute. Aaron is also an honor student and very active in high school theater, frequently with significant roles. Aaron's passion for gymnastics and theater meant balancing a heavy schedule for parts of the year, which they successfully managed throughout their time with Sokol. Reflecting on what Sokol has meant to them, Aaron notes, "Sokol gymnastics has been such an important aspect of my life, by building my self-confidence and allowing me to learn

through experience that I can improve my skills with hard work and the support from my teammates and coaches. I'm so grateful to have been a part of it and made all the memories I have, including time spent at skills clinics and competitions with people I consider close friends and whom I wouldn't have met without Sokol."

Aaron will attend Union College in New York state and study in the areas of arts and humanities.



Lily Callanan

Lily started gymnastics with Sokol Minnesota at age seven and has been an active class participant ever since. Lily began competing in Sokol competitions at age 11 and has been a class instructor for two years, teaching tots and small girls, along with being a rotating instruction for junior girls. Lily has also assisted with Sokol Minnesota events as a youth participant, particularly as a volunteer gymnastics instructor for our annual Children's Cultural Day Camp. Lily was very active in her high school as a four-year participant in, and eventually captain of, tennis and Nordic skiing teams. She is an honor student and spent many hours organizing and leading student community events, all with competence, modesty, and good judgment. Reflecting on what Sokol Minnesota means to Lily, she says, "Sokol Minnesota has meant so much to me these past 11 years. Sokol is the place where I not only grew in my

gymnastics skills, but where I connected with my heritage, found friends who have become a family to me, and found a place I will always call home."

Lily will attend Colby College in Maine and plans to major in environmental policy and minor in studio art.



Mitchell Gillman

Mitchell started gymnastics as a tot and was an active participant in Sokol classes until he graduated from high school this past December. Mitchell began competing in Sokol competitions in 2017, and he attended National Instructor School in 2022, the first school after COVID. He assisted as an instructor for the boys' classes and taught tots for two years, until he reported for training in the United States Army in January of this year. Reflecting on what Sokol Minnesota means to him, Mitchell says, "I started gymnastics through Sokol when I was very young and was able to advance to an instructor. I have received so much support through my own instructors at the Sokol, and I appreciate that I got to challenge my strength with gymnastics through Sokol Minnesota."



Anna Nowaczewski

Anna started gymnastics with Sokol Minnesota at age seven, has been an active class participant every year since, and started competing at age eight. Anna has also been a class instructor for two years, teaching small girls, acting as a rotating instructor for juniors, and substituting for boys' classes. When a beloved and talented coach did not return to teach this year at Sokol Minnesota, Anna stepped up to lead the advanced girls, and her junior teammates, for nearly two months until a replacement coach was secured. Anna has developed skills in all of her students and they are truly proud to demonstrate their accomplishments. Reflecting on what Sokol Minnesota means to Anna, she says, "In the last 11 years that I have been a Sokol gymnast, I have learned persistence, confidence, and teamwork. Sokol has brought me some of my most supportive and loving friends, along with so many amazing role models."

Anna will be completing postsecondary education at Aveda Arts Minneapolis, a premiere global leader in beauty and wellness, and hopes to remain active in Sokol Minnesota as an instructor and adult member.



Juna (right) and Leo Krikava

Dancer Graduate by Louise Wessinger

Juna Bea Krikava

Juna Krikava, daughter of Benjamin and Emily Krikava, began dancing in the *Taneční Mládež* dance group when she was six years old and is now graduating from Patrick Henry High School in Minneapolis on June 15. Juna's favorite activities are art, mountain biking, and skiing. She was a captain of both the mountain biking and ski teams for two years, along with being an honor roll student all four years. One of her favorite high school memories was helping backstage during the school's annual May Show.

One of Juna's favorite *Taneční Mládež* memories was performing at the Festival of Nations. Juna says, "I loved it when our whole year of practice would come together. We were so synchronized and powerful." During her time in *Taneční Mládež*, Juna learned to polka (correctly) and how to dance with anyone without letting fear get in the way of expression. Juna's favorite dance is the *Milaveska* polka, mostly because it was her first "older kid" dance, and she wanted to do it just right. She advises younger dancers to make friends with the other dancers so they can look forward to seeing one another each week. Juna's brother Leo is surely her favorite partner. They both wear beautiful Moravian *kroje* they have inherited from their great-grandmother.

Juna plans to attend the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, where she plans to study forest science with emphasis on urban forestry and ecological solutions.

Sokol Minnesota Receives American Sokol Grants

by Joyce Tesarek

Once again, our parent organization, American Sokol, awarded our unit three generous grants. All of these will help our unit in many ways. We received \$1,488 from the Unit Corporate Grant, which will help with updating our QuickBooks accounting software and moving it online. The \$658 Unit Growth grant will help expand our publicity and update our website. The \$619 Gateway to the Future grant will help with our Czech & Slovak Festival in September, such as by allowing us to purchase a propane burner we can use outdoors at the festival to deep fry the *langoš* (fried bread). To support our talented cooks who work through the sweltering days of August and early September preparing festival food, we also will purchase a new window air conditioning unit for the kitchen. Many, many thanks to the American Sokol Foundation for recommending these 2024 grants for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

The funds for these grants are administered by the American Sokol Foundation Committee (made up of a representative from each of the six American Sokol districts) and a volunteer administrator. The foundation reviews the grant applications from the units and makes recommendations to the executive board. All awards must be approved by the executive board of American Sokol, our parent organization. Sokol Minnesota member Joan Sedlacek is a member-at-large on the American Sokol board. Also on the executive board from Western District (WD) are Allison Gerber, financial secretary, and Shelley Cairns, member-at-large, both from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. M. L. Kucera represents WD on the American Sokol Foundation Committee.

Mariusz Szczygieł Speaks at the C.S.P.S. Hall

by Sally Lieberman and Renáta Tichá



On April 27, Polish writer and journalist Mariusz Szczygieł gave a presentation at the C.S.P.S. Hall at a unique occasion that brought together over 60 members of the Czech, Slovak, and Polish communities. An aim of the program, according to moderator Kasia Leville of the Minnesota Polish Medical Society, was to build friendship and unity among these communities.

Szczygieł's tongue-in-cheek topic was "heavenly love." With reference to projected images from Czech art and media, he expressed his love of many aspects of Czech culture, including the Czechs' sense of irony, ability to see humor in sorrow, and agnosticism combined with a nonchalant acceptance of vestiges of religion in Czech culture. He also highlighted several differences between the Czech and Polish outlooks on life.

Szczygieł presented in Polish, with English translation provided by Małgorzata Mróz. After the presentation, Leville, who was instrumental in bringing the author to Minnesota, interviewed Szczygieł on stage about his books and the concepts behind them. The program, which was sponsored by the Minnesota Polish Medical Society, the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center, Sokol Minnesota, and the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities, also included a book signing and social time.

Sokol Minnesota Introduces Our New Treasurer, Barbara Skrivanek by Joyce Tesarek

Barbara Skrivanek has joined Sokol leadership as our new treasurer and as a new member of the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors and the Budget and Finance Committee. During her interview, Barbara shared her background:

“I’m excited to be joining the board. I grew up in St. Paul, and I’m very familiar with the West 7th Street neighborhood since my grandmother lived a couple blocks off of West 7th Street. My late father, Richard Skrivanek, was a long-time member of Sokol, and my nieces Carissa and Teresa were involved with the gymnastic program as students and instructors. Carissa and her husband Dylan

continue to be Sokol members. I’ve also enjoyed taking baking classes and took Czech language classes in the past. I currently work as an accountant for a property management company in Plymouth, where I do the financials for several large senior living communities. I have a bachelor’s degree in accounting from Augsburg University, and I have worked in accounting for over forty years. Fifteen of those years were working in fund development departments supervising the processing of all charitable contributions, creating data entry standards, and providing training on the philanthropy database.”

Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

by Kari Muyres

Please join us for this long-standing tradition of Czech and Slovak food, music, and dance. The Lipa Carpatho-Rusyn Slovak Dancers will entertain the crowd starting at 3 p.m., along with live concertina and guitar provided by Dave Carlson.

We are always in need of volunteers to help make the picnic a success!

If interested, please contact Kari or Scott Muyres at (763) 226-0313.

WHAT: 94th annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

WHEN: Sunday, August 11, 2024.

Food and beverage service from noon until 4 p.m. (campgrounds are open until 5 p.m.)

WHERE: Sokol Camp, 19201 Woodland Acres South, Pine City, Minnesota 55063

WHO: Sokol brothers and sisters.

Event is open to the general public



Jim Taylor stirring booya.

June - August 2024

Czech and Slovak Gift Shop

by appointment only:

giftshop@sokolmn.org



Merchandise is owned by Sokol and run by Volunteers

Sokol Minnesota Friendly Friday Evenings

Remember: Second Friday of each month,
7-10 p.m.

Free drop-in

Friendly Friday, 7-10 p.m.

June 14

Mushroom auction items will be available for pick-up, then stay and enjoy the fun!

July 12

More board games and activities.

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

Bring your own beverages and/or snacks to share.

Three International Students Receive Mestenhauser Student Awards by M. L. Kucera

The virtual ceremony for the 2024 Mestenhauser Student Award for Excellence in Campus Internationalization at the University of Minnesota on April 24 drew nearly 70 people from around the United States and the world, the largest attendance since the awards began in 2014. The award recognizes outstanding student contributions to international education at the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Josef Mestenhauser (1925-2015) is remembered for his long career of advocacy for and commitment to students. "That the University of Minnesota is a pioneer in the field of international education in the United States is not only true, but overwhelmingly attributed to Dr. Mestenhauser's leadership," explains Dr. Harvey Charles, vice provost for international programs, senior international officer, and leader of the Global Programs and Strategy Alliance, which aims to advance the University of Minnesota as a global leader in international teaching, research, and outreach.

The three 2024 Mestenhauser Student Award recipients are Dongting Cai (China), Communication, Media, and Rhetoric, Morris campus; Vishal Jamkar (India), Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Twin Cities campus; and Washington Galvão (Brazil), College of Education and Human Development, Twin Cities campus. To see the recipients' digital stories: global.umn.edu/awards/mestenhauser

Dr. Yuliya Kartoshkina, (herself a student of Dr. Mestenhauser and now the program director for Internationalizing the Curriculum and Campus, Global Programs and Strategy Alliance) directed the ceremony. "Each of the students receive a scholarship and a copy of the book *Mestenhauser and the Possibilities of International Education*. These are made possible by donations to the Mestenhauser Legacy Initiative." global.umn.edu/icc/legacy

Dr. Mestenhauser was the first post-World War II Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis, 1999-2008, establishing the office in the C.S.P.S. building.

Patricia Bergh and Anne Bentley, Dr. Mestenhauser's daughters, attended the online ceremony and both are Sokol Minnesota members.



Dr. Mestenhauser

Celebrating the Scenic Art of Nationally Recognized Artist Victor Hubal Sr.



Sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday
July, 21 20
24 **2 p.m.**

In 1931, Hubal painted six backdrops that evoked scenes of his native Bohemia. The program will show the various "fly" roll-drops and splatter flats, from Hubal's last existing complete collection. The presentation will explore painting techniques, answer questions, and will include a meet-and-greet reception.

Open to the public.

Free-will donations to support the repair and conservation of Hubal's large-scale art work.

Please register: sokolmn.org

Questions: activities@sokolmn.org

Western District Annual Meeting

by Mary Cahill and M. L. Kucera

Western District (WD) of American Sokol held its annual meeting at Sokol South Omaha on April 27, after the Western District *Slet* (see page 4). WD has six Sokol units in Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska, with a total membership of 717. The WD *Slet* in 2025 will be at Sokol Crete, Crete, Nebraska.



WD 2024 officers are (L-R) Kevin Sindelar (Cedar Rapids), WD Men's Director; Joan Sedlacek (Minnesota), WD Education Director and Historian, WD representative to American Sokol (AS) Education Committee; Deb Allison (Cedar Rapids), WD Vice President; Shelley Cairns, WD Treasurer and Financial Secretary; Mary Cahill (Minnesota), WD Women's Director; Allison Gerber (Cedar Rapids), WD President and Membership Committee Rep to AS. Not pictured is Marit Lee Kucera (Minnesota), WD representative to AS Foundation Committee, who along with Jason Brozovich (Minnesota), Women's and Men's Physical Directors, Board of Instructors (BOI) and representative to WD BOI, left the meeting early on a pizza run for the Minnesota gymnastic contestants and families.

Christmas in July



Make and take traditional Christmas holiday baked goods! Linzer cookies, Beehives, and Vanilla crescent rolls, and one mini *Vánočka*

Beehive molds and goose feather pastry brushes will be available for sale.

Christmas in July

Sunday
July 14, 2024
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota

\$60 for Sokol members and \$70 for non-members.

Limited to 16 people.

Register:
www.sokolmn.org

Food • Drinks • Live Music • Family Activities
• Walking & Bus Tours • Evening Street Dance

WEST FEST ON 7th

CELEBRATING THE PEOPLE, PLACES, & HISTORY OF
THE WEST SEVENTH NEIGHBORHOOD

Saturday, June 8

HOSTED BY • ST. STAN'S OF WEST SEVENTH
398 West Superior Street

Community Resource Tables including Sokol Minnesota
with Lucy Rose and Sally Lieberman

2-4 p.m. Free picnic meals

Live music with Bruce Caswell and Teddy Bear Band

Sign up for free walking and motorcoach tours

4 p.m. Mass at St. Stan's with Archbishop Hebda

5-9 p.m. Street dance, music by The Goombas

Food trucks, raffle

More info at westfeston7th.com

35th annual CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, September 29 ²⁰₂₄
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Ethnic Food • Czech-style Beer • Music • Sokol Gift Shop
Dance and Gymnastics Performances • Children's Games
Silent Auction • Street Vendors • Exhibit • Special Guests

www.sokolmn.org

Become a Volunteer:
festival@sokolmn.org



FREE Admission • Public Welcome • Accessible Facility
C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Czech and Slovak Baking Superstar Maškrtnica at the C.S.P.S. Hall

by Sally Lieberman, Jitka Sebek, and Míša Kotek

In April, Sokol Minnesota had a rare opportunity to offer baking classes with Juliana Fischerová, known as Maškrtnica (www.maskrtnica.cz). Maškrtnica is an internet baking sensation in the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic, where she is renowned for her sourdough expertise and deep knowledge of traditional baking techniques. Among her many accomplishments, she is a cofounder of the interactive sourdough map *Pečem pecen* (www.pecempecen.cz), whereby anyone in the Czech Republic or Slovak Republic may find a local source for free sourdough starter. Increasingly, as Maškrtnica's reputation has grown worldwide, the map has become international as well. The map currently has 50 registered sourdough enthusiasts in North America, including two in the Twin Cities area! Juliana, who lives in Prague and is of Slovak heritage, told us that "Maškrtnica" is a Slovak nickname for a person, especially a child, who loves sweet treats. It is our good fortune that she was in the Twin Cities with her husband and children to visit relatives, and that she agreed to lead a busy weekend program at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Maškrtnica shared her enthusiasm and knowledge of traditional baking in two hands-on classes for adults, Sweet Yeast Dough on April 19 and Sourdough Bread on April 21. The sweet yeast dough group made and took

home *rohličky*, several types of *koláče*, *buchty*, and braided *vánočka* Christmas loaves. The sourdough group learned to make all-rye and wheat-rye sourdough breads, as well as *koláče*. We took home loaves of bread, dough ready to bake the following day, and sourdough starter to continue our baking adventures. Sokol member Míša Kotek (The Czech Baker) assisted Maškrtnica and provided the ingredients, including her homemade plum butter.

On Saturday morning, Maškrtnica taught children and families from the Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities to make *loupáky*, a traditional sweet version of *rohličky* rolls. The children learned that *loupáky* do not need to have their traditional shape, and they enthusiastically created dinosaurs, deer, and fairyland figures from their dough! They enjoyed sprinkling their *loupáky* with poppy seeds and dipping them in hot cocoa.

The participants were inspired by Maškrtnica's commitment to passing along Czech and Slovak baking traditions. She also clearly communicated the joy and creativity of baking. Sokol Minnesota looks forward to more cooking and baking classes in the future. Watch the All Upcoming Events page at sokolmn.org for a Christmas in July cookie baking class with Míša Kotek on Sunday, July 14. See page 10 for more details.



Maškrtnica (right) enjoying treats with Škola families.



Everyone helps prepare the dough.



Adriana Wenberg, Alena Youngberg, Míša Kotek (in back), Maškrtnica, Dick Vogel, Pat Slaber, and Jenny Bye.



Sally Lieberman, Judy Taylor, Amy Henry, and Maškrtnica

Highlights from May Day Celebration, Sunday, May 5, Montgomery by M. L. Kucera

Czech food, Czech concertina music, Czech beer, Czech merchandise, and local Czech organizations, plus Czech (and Slovak) folk dancers, royalty and their ambassador, as well as many children's activities and a classic car roll-in all had a glorious May Day celebration in Montgomery on Sunday, May 5.



1. Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers performed twice. Louise Wessinger is director of folk dancing at Sokol Minnesota.

2. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *Taneční* Teens dancers.

3-5. The 40-foot pine pole is debarked except for a tuft of branches at the top and a hanging wreath. The pole is hoisted with ropes and lifting sticks (*zvedací hole*) and slid into a prepared hole in the ground, and then wedges are driven in and sand poured to keep the pole straight and upright for three months. Dancers weave in and around one another with ribbons, then dance out again, leaving the ribbons long for the next set of dancers. The ladder truck from the Montgomery Fire Department came on Monday to take down the ribbons, which are saved for the next year. The Maypole stands until the end of Kolacky Days (July 26-28, 2024).

6. 2024-2025 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Sarah Langridge with four of the Sokol Minnesota *Taneční Mládež Školka* dancers before their performance. Behind them are the Arts and Heritage Center of Montgomery's Topiary Dancers, Alenka and Vlada, which greeted guests at the corner of Vine Avenue and First Street North. 7. *Taneční Mládež Školka* dancers with their coaches.

Highlights of the Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors April 2024 Meeting

by Theresa Hudachek

The April 2024 Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. on April 18.

Attendees included board members Joyce Tesarek, Jason Brozovick, Jean Draheim, Ed Hamernik, Lucy Rose, Bob Kotek, Sally Lieberman, Marketa Pakova, Steve Ernest, and Theresa Hudachek. Also attending was Sokol member M. L. Kucera.

It began with a presentation by Wendy Waszut-Barrett on large-scale fine artwork and the considerations Sokol Minnesota should take in caring for and preserving their valuable backdrops and props. Jean Draheim will set up a presentation by Wendy to the broader Sokol Minnesota community in July.

Following the presentation, the board reviewed and approved the March meeting minutes, with one correction to the name of the elevator company to All City Elevator.

Lucy shared an update from a recent meeting of the World Sokol Federation.

The board discussed the need to clarify and post our event ticket cancellation policy.

Lucy and Sally will be staffing a table at the St. Stanislaus neighborhood event on June 8, 2024.

Dave Stepan received approval to move forward with scheduling a presentation by Filip Šír on Bohemian music sellers in the United States.

A bylaw committee will be created to review and revise the Sokol Minnesota bylaws.

The BOI will draft a recommendation for the feasibility of weekday hall rentals and present it to the board of directors.

Following the discussion items, directors gave reports. Highlights included approving Barbara Skrivanek as treasurer. Welcome!

Three new members were approved, along with one reinstated member.

Gaming May budget expense and March actual expenses were approved.

Obituary

Long-time, active Sokol Minnesota member **James Chlebecek**, 91, passed away on May 9, 2024. A memorial service will be held Thursday, June 20 at 11:30 a.m., with visitation one hour earlier, at Washburn-McReavy, 2500 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington. Obituary in the *Star Tribune*: www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000488335/

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

Sokol Minnesota would like to welcome our five newest members.

Arlene Drabek, Minneapolis

Charles Mara, St. Germain, Wisconsin

Sarah Langridge, Savage

Gabriella Stoudd, Minnetrista

Lexi Timmerman, Saint Peter

Sarah, Gabby, and Lexi are the 2024-2025 Miss Czech Slovak Minnesota Queen, First Princess, and Second Princess. In the coming year, we hope to see them at our events wearing the colorful traditional outfits we know as *kroje*.

Submitted by Steve Ernest, Membership Director
<https://sokolmn.org/membership/>

Welcome to our newest members!



CZECH HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Sunday, August 11, 2024 Bechyn, MN
Polka Mass 10 a.m. | Czech Dinner 11a.m.-1:30p.m.
Raffle Drawing & Festival Ends 4:30 p.m.

Stop by Sokol Minnesota's Gift Shop's Sales Booth!

FREE Admission • Held rain or shine • Located 10 miles NE of Redwood Falls, MN
Beer Garden • Dancing • Kid's Games & Activities Bingo • Cash Raffle • Farmer's Market.
Food: Polish Sausage, Kolache, Jiternice Sausage, Dumplings, Sauerkraut.
www.BechynCzechFest.org Facebook.com/BechynMinnesotaWorld

Slovo Publication Information and Committees

The *Slovo* is published ten times per year by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, a non-profit organization, 383 West 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

Non-member *Slovo* subscription: \$20 annually. Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with a \$20 check payable to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota; mail to *Slovo* at the above address.

The *Slovo* staff welcomes submissions.

Copy deadline for each issue is the first day of the prior month. Send news, articles, and pictures digitally to slovo@sokolmn.org

Advertising: For information on due dates and rates, please email slovo@sokolmn.org

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; non-deliverable copies are not forwarded or held by the post office. Non-delivered copies are returned to Sokol Minnesota and billed to us at the first-class mail rate. For this reason, we will not send issues until we have a current, correct mailing address on record for you.

Member volunteer *Slovo* staff:

***Slovo* team:** Mary Cahill, Kelly Rynda, and Joyce Tesarek.

Co-managing and copy editor: Kelly Rynda.

Production layout: Mary Kucera.

Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

Mailing/Email lists: Penny and Tom Tesarek.

Minnesota ad designer: Doreen McKenney (1, 3, 8, 9, 10, 13, 16).

June/July issue contributors: Jason Brozovich, Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Steve Ernest, Arlene Hamernik, Theresa Hudachek, Miša Kotek, Sally Lieberman, M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Kari Muyres, Lucy Brudnak Rose, Jitka Sebek, Joyce Tesarek, Renáta Tichá, Louise Wessinger, and Gwen Willems.

June/July issue photographs, ads, or illustrations: Aaron Armstrong, Mary Cahill, Lily Callanan, Kathy Donohue, Abra Gillman, Mitchell Gillman, Martina Gurgel, Brian Langridge, Sally Lieberman, M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Kari Muyres, Anna Nowaczewski, Jitka Sebek, Renáta Tichá, Judy Vondracek, and Louise Wessinger.

More information at www.sokolmn.org

So Many Heroes by Alan Levy. Revised edition, Second Chance Press: Sagaponack, NY, 390 pages; 1980. First published as *Rowboat to Prague*, 1972, Grossman Publishers: New York. 531 pages. Available at libraries and bookstores.

I consider *So Many Heroes* to be one of the best books about Czechoslovak people, lands, and history that I have ever read. After years of reading *The Prague Post*, an English newspaper of which Alan Levy (1932-2004) was editor-in-chief, I was eager to meet him at a conference at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Iowa where we were both presenting. He turned out to be not only amazingly knowledgeable about all things Czech, but also an extremely warm and engaging person. I was presenting on the status of Roma in the Czech Republic, which turned out to be a favorite topic of his, so his participation in my session was a meaningful gift.

In *So Many Heroes*, Levy combines a magnificently detailed history of the Prague Spring and Fall in 1968 with a memoir of his moving to Prague with his family in December 1967. Since I have read much and seen exhibits about the August invasion of Czechoslovakia, I found his reporting on the Prague Spring to be especially fascinating.

He was a successful, but restless, journalist based in Greenwich Village who wrote for well-known publications including *Life* magazine, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *The New York Times*, and others. Levy wrote, “We were going to Prague, I think, largely on an assumption of mine that in all systems the people are far more decent than the governments that purport to represent them.” The author was charmed by Prague, “a magic yellow city with a thousand gold spires and tiny blue cobblestones that workmen hammered back into place every morning.”

A friend gave him important advice to “take notes” rather than snapshots. Levy’s meticulous notes and research skills make this book a tour de force that combines what he saw and heard, reportage in other media outlets, and important documents.

Levy took a few short trips to Czechoslovakia as a foreign correspondent before moving there. A letter of introduction from a friend in New York led to film director Miloš Forman being his tour and cultural guide. Such connections led Levy to find an exceptional apartment and meet government officials such as Alexander Dubček. The Levys’ apartment was close to the castle district of Hradčany and within walking distance of many significant sites.

A month after arriving in Prague, Levy watched conservative Antonín Novotný receive a vote of no-confidence from the Czechoslovak Party Central Committee. The functions of the president and party leader were split, with Novotný remaining president and Dubček ascending as first

secretary. Dubček led a process that accelerated cultural and economic liberalization in Czechoslovakia, making him and his slogan “socialism with a human face” highly popular.

Under Dubček’s leadership, a ninety-page Action Program of the Communist Party (of Czechoslovakia) was adopted by the party on April 5, 1968. In addition to educational and economic reforms, its objectives included major desires of citizens: “The implementation of constitutional freedom of

assembly and association must be ensured *this* year.... Legal norms must guarantee more exactly the freedom of speech of minority interests and opinions.... The constitutional freedom of movement, particularly the traveling of our citizens abroad, must be precisely guaranteed by law.”

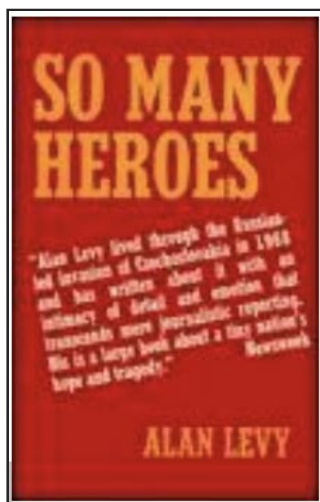
An important “first” in Communist history was arranged for July—the Soviet nine-man Politburo’s first trip abroad. It would meet with the Czechoslovak Presidium at the railway station at the Czech city Čierna nad Tisou. According to Levy, playwright Pavel Kahout wanted the balky Presidium to support Dubček at the summit. Kahout composed a manifesto published as a two-

page edition of the *Literární Listy* magazine and signed by more than two million Czechoslovakians. In it, he exhorted the Presidium to tell the Russians “that we need freedom, peace, and time to be worthier and better allies than ever before. In short, speak on behalf of the people, who are no longer an empty concept, but a new force that makes history.”

At 11 p.m. on Tuesday, August 8, 1968, Levy finished drafting an article on freedom of the press in Prague for *The New York Times Magazine*. Ironically, he was awoken by a phone call at 4:30 a.m. from his literary agent in New York telling him, “Look out your window, for Christ’s sake! The Russians are there! They’ve landed at Prague airport. Russian, Polish, and East German soldiers have crossed the Czech frontier.” Levy disagreed, saying Czechoslovakia had big meetings in Čierna and Bratislava, and now they were going to be left alone awhile. Levy’s agent insisted, “No, no! Prague is an occupied city. Radio Prague has gone off the air.” Hundreds of armed troops and numerous tanks rolled over Czechoslovakia, putting an end to the Prague Spring of liberalization.

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 or contact gwen@cs-center.org.

Literary Ventures is on summer break. For the new year’s schedule, check cs-center.org in late summer.



Czech Honorary Consul News

June/July 2024

It is a great honor for Minnesotans once again to receive **2024 Czech language scholarships**. Tim Kojetin has received a Czech government scholarship for the Summer Czech Course in Poděbrady from July 7 to August 2. Michael Trittipio has received a Czech government scholarship for the Summer Czech Language Teachers Course, August 26 to September 6. Ondřej Pometlo, Deputy Consul General/Chicago wrote in his notification email to Tim and Michael, "This is a testament to your hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to Czech heritage. May this recognition fuel your passion for your cultural heritage and inspire you further."

Economic Summit: Understanding the Past to Build the Future took place May 2 and 3 at the



National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Friday night Dr. Martin Palouš opened the special exhibit, *Vaclav Havel: From Dissident to President*.

Palouš has been Director of the Vaclav Havel Program for Human Rights and Democracy at Florida International University, Miami, since 2011. He was Ambassador to the United States, 2001-2005, and permanent representative to the United Nations from Czech Republic, 2006-2011, as well as several previous diplomatic and political appointments. One of the first signatories of Charter 77 in

Czech and Slovak Honorary Consuls at the NCSML Economic Summit on May 2:

(L-R) Monika Vintrlíková (Czech/Atlanta), Dr. Cecilia Rokusek (Slovak/Florida), Dr. Robert Petrik (retired Slovak/Florida), M.L. Kucera (Czech/Minneapolis); Dr. Martin Palous (former Czech Ambassador); Sharon Valasek (Czech/Kansas City); Edward M. Zelenak (Slovak/Wisconsin and Michigan), and Rosemary Macko Wisnosky (Slovak/Illinois).

1977 to protest communist civil rights violations, Palouš is today a member of the Prague Society for International Cooperation, a respected Central-European non-government organization whose main goals are networking and the development of a new generation of responsible, well-informed leaders and thinkers.

Saturday's sessions, moderated by Dr. Dalibor Mikuláš (NCSML Vice President and COO), included remarks by Dr. Cecilia Rokusek, President and CEO, NCSML; Radovan Javorčík, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic; Jakub Utěšený, Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago; Jozef Suchánek, Governor of the Olomouc Region, Czech Republic; Jozef Síkela Minister of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic; Dr. Jan Svejnar, Director, Center on Global Economic Governance, Columbia University, New York (who because of on-going student demonstrations gave the Keynote Address via a recorded video); Josef Tetera, Head of Tourism and International Relations, Olomouc Region; plus remarks by elected Iowa officials and several Czech, Slovak, Iowan, and Georgian trade experts.

As the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, now a Smithsonian Affiliate, marks its 50th anniversary in 2024, it looks forward to building more transatlantic partnerships.

I joined Sokol Minnesota members (L-R) Sam Simmons (L) and Kristi Simmons (R) at the **ground-breaking ceremony** at NCSML in Cedar Rapids on Friday, May 3, to replace the current clock in the tower with an *orloj*, a replica of medieval Prague astronomical clock (*Pražský orloj*) in the Old Town Square, dating back to 1410. Clock works are Czech made. Twelve figurines on two carousels on the clock tower will reflect immigrant stories, such as a farmer, a merchant, a meatpacker, and nine other sculptures representing those who came to the United States from Czech, Slovak, Moravian, and other Czech lands. The Slovak hand-carved 4'-tall wood figurines will rotate on the hour to the music of Czech composers Antonín Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana. Completion of what-will-be-the-only-orloj in the United States is expected later this year. ncsml.org



The Fourth Global Meeting of Honorary Consuls of the Czech Republic meets in Prague, June 18-22. All three of the Honorary Consuls under the Chicago Consulate jurisdiction will attend: Sharon Valasek, Kansas and Missouri (Czech Honorary Consul since 2004); Marit Lee Kucera, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota (2015); and Míla Šašková-Pierce, Nebraska (2017).

Kucera will attend the **XVII All Sokol Slet in Prague**, with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota members, Megan and Jason Brozovich and son, Mary and Dennis Cahill, and Joan Sedlacek from June 30 to July 5.



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul
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OR mlkucera@outlook.com





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

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 *Thank you!*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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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For status of events scheduled for the C.S.P.S. Hall, check our calendar at sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* June/July 2024

Bohemian Flats Park get-together

Sponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Saturday
July 13 **20**
24
10 a.m.

FREE with online reservations

Revisit River Life at the Bohemian Flats Park in Minneapolis!

Enjoy a morning by the Mississippi River.

History talk on the Bohemian Flats Immigrant Settlement.

Storytelling by descendants of Bohemian Flats residents.

Tour of the new Oak Savanna Restoration Area led by a Minneapolis Parks planner.

Limited space!
Make your reservation soon: sokolmn.org

Have a story to share or questions?
Contact: education@sokolmn.org