

CZECH AND SLOVAK



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

SLOVO

September 2024  
vol. 47 no. 7

## UPCOMING EVENTS

October *Slovo* articles  
due September 1

Sokol Minnesota  
Singers

September 3, 17, Oct. 1  
10 a.m.-noon.

Friendly Friday  
Evening Social

September 13, 7 p.m.

Fall Language  
Classes

See page 7

Kolo Bike Club

September 15, Oct. 20

See page 9

*The Book of Prague*

with Patrik Banga

October 4, 7 p.m.

See page 7

Sokol Fall Postcard

with upcoming events

See page 16

Sokol Gift Shop

open by appointment

35th Czech & Slovak  
Festival

Sunday, September 29

Volunteer and donate  
to Silent Auction!

Information on page 12



Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

# 35<sup>th</sup> annual CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

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

C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota



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

Become a Volunteer: [festival@sokolmn.org](mailto:festival@sokolmn.org)

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

I am looking forward to meeting you in just a few short weeks on Sunday, September 29 at our 35th annual Czech & Slovak Festival! Soon our C.S.P.S. Hall will be filled inside and out with music, dancing, games, food, and *pivo*. And although our Sokol children's dance and gymnastics groups take a break from weekly practices during their summer vacation, those practices will resume in the coming weeks in preparation for delighting our festival guests with their wonderful performances. All the copious rain we have had this summer has been great for my backyard garden and the newly-planted young trees along the west side of the parking lot at the C.S.P.S. Hall, but I am keeping my fingers crossed for a sunny day with a cool breeze on September 29. Whatever the weather brings us, I will have a great time dancing, eating, and talking with new and old friends at the festival. I hope to see you there, too.

With the summer coming to an end, several of our regular classes will resume meeting this month, either online or in person at the C.S.P.S. Hall. If you are interested in learning a new language, we offer beginner, advanced beginner, and advanced Czech classes, and for those interested in learning the Slovak language, we have an elementary-level class.

We also offer opportunities for more physical engagement, at both the adult and children's levels. If you have kids, they might enjoy learning Czech and Slovak folk dances with the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota children's dance group, led by our long-time dance director Louise Wessinger. The perfect time for new kids to join the group is in early October, right after our festival. The one-hour practices are on Saturday morning each week at the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Sokol Minnesota also offers several ways for adults to get physically active, including weekly kung fu and tai chi classes on Wednesday evenings at the C.S.P.S. Hall and group bicycle rides with the Kolo Sokol Bike Club on the third Sunday of each month. (The last ride for this year will be in October.) I'm so grateful to the dedicated Sokol Minnesota members who volunteer their time to coordinate and teach all of these wonderful programs for our youth and adult members. While it's great to take a break from our weekly programs during the summer so that families can travel and spend time doing other things, I'm proud that Sokol Minnesota provides opportunities for our membership to come together again and maintain our community as the days get shorter and the weather turns cooler.

I invite you to join us for all of the Sokol Minnesota programs that interest you, and if there is something we are missing that you'd like to see us offer to our membership, please don't hesitate to get in touch, as I'd love to hear your ideas. As always, you can contact me at [president@sokolmn.org](mailto:president@sokolmn.org) or, better yet, let's discuss your ideas in person over a *pivo* or *kolače* during our Czech & Slovak Festival on September 29! I look forward to seeing you there. *Nazdar!*



Lucy  
Brudnak Rose

## Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2024 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)

### Going away this winter? Forwarding your mail?

Do not forget about the *Slovo*! We mail at bulk mail rates. The post office does not forward bulk mail and we pay an additional amount for each issue returned, so let us know your winter address.

Or, you can change your subscription to receive the *Slovo* in color via email: Contact: [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)

We think our volunteers produce a great newsletter.  
We want to be sure you receive it!

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)



Use this  
QR code  
to go to  
[sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org)



## 2024 All-Sokol Slet XVII, Prague, Czech Republic, June 30 to July 5

### Nineteen Countries Participated in the 2024 All-Sokol Slet XVII

Czech President Petr Pavel helped to open the *Slet* on Thursday night, July 4. Martin Chlumský, head of the Czech Sokol Organization/*Česká obec sokolská* (ČOS), said, "We have been leading Czechs towards physical activity and communal engagement for 162 years, and I am immensely pleased that we can enjoy our togetherness in such an amazing atmosphere. The *Slet* unites. It unites generations, sport with art, regions and this country with the world. Today, we can be here as one big Sokol family, sharing the same values."

Based on the principle of "a strong mind in a sound body," the Sokol movement was founded in Prague in 1862 by Miroslav Tyrš and Jindřich Fügner. Twenty years later, the first All-Sokol *Slet* was held in 1882; it was a men-only event. In 1920, women finally participated as equal partners. Wars and politics might have interrupted these international Gatherings (*Slety*) of Falcons (Sokols) from happening every six years, but Sokols kept performing their *prostrná* (mass synchronized calisthenic gymnastic drills) along with competitions in gymnastics and other sports, parades, and cultural events.

In addition to the sexennial All-Sokol *Slet* in Prague, American Sokol has a national *Slet* every four years, and Sokol Districts hold an annual *Slet* of units within their district. The district and national gatherings continue to provide Sokol members the opportunity to practice, perform, and stay united. But the penultimate opportunity for unity is at an All-Sokol *Slet* in Prague. *Nazdar!*



Joan Sedlacek carried the Western District flag of American Sokol. Americans were at the very front of the parade.

Attending the weeklong XVII All-Sokol *Slet* in Prague, June 30 to July 5, from Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota were Jason Brozovich (2024\*), Megan Cahill Brozovich (2000\*, 2024\*\*), and their son Eddie; Dennis Cahill (2006\*, 2024\*\*); Mary Cahill (2000\*, 2024\*\*); Marit Lee Kucera (2018\*\*, 2024\*\*); and Joan Sedlacek (1994\*, 2000\*, 2018\*, 2024\*, and Setcany in 1990\*). Anne Jans (2024\*\*) and her daughter Alenka attended the Friday afternoon field performances at Fortuna Arena. (\*participated, \*\*attended)

For *Slet* information and history:

<https://sokolmuseum.org/slets-in-prague/>

For more 2024 images from ČOS (The Czech

Union Sokol/*Česká obec sokolská*): <https://www.captainsnap.com/cs/albums/JJ3UOGW5GDBI?opened=300975>

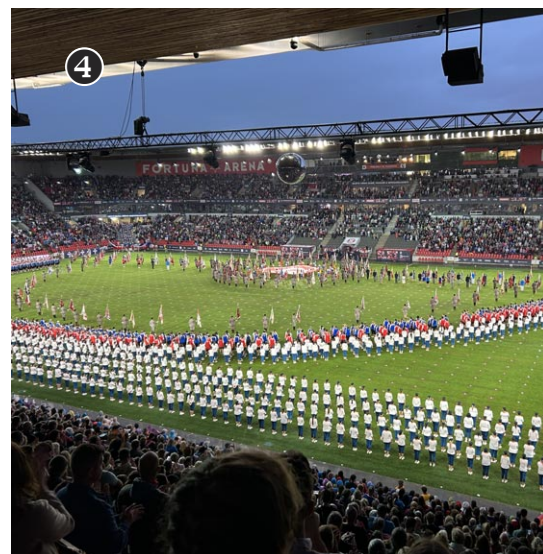


In American Sokol dress uniform (navy blue blazer, gray slacks, white shirt, and black shoes), (L-R) Marit Kucera, Mary Cahill, and Dennis Cahill waved their American flags as they marched the 1.5-mile parade route from *Václavské náměstí* (Wenceslas Square) to *Staroměstské náměstí* (Old Town Square) in Prague for the XVII All-Sokol *Slet* on Sunday, June 30, 2024.

The parade of over 20,000 marchers lasted more than three hours.



## 2024 All-Sokol Slet XVII, Prague, Czech Republic, June 30 to July 5

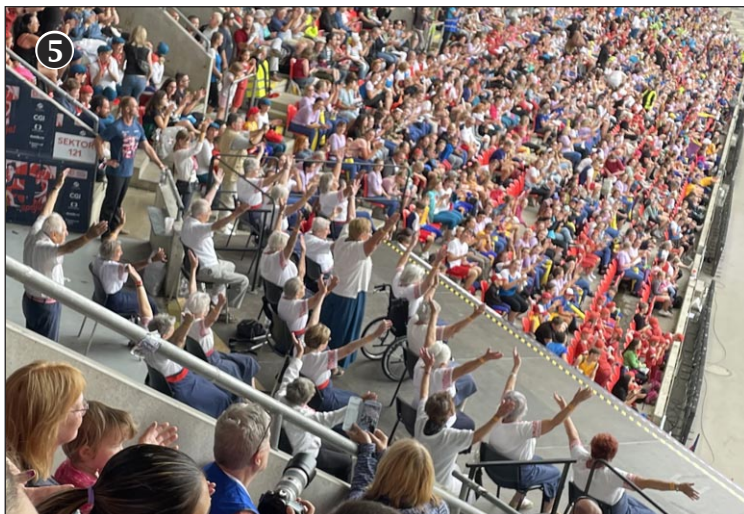
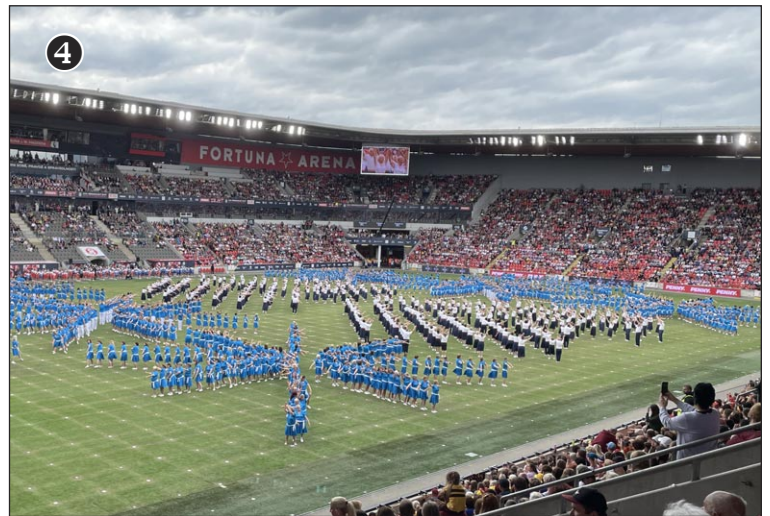


1. Megan Brozovich, Jason Brozovich (in his Rock Symphony *proštná* uniform), and son Eddie along for the ride, as they marched on Prague's cobblestone streets in the parade. 2. U.S. First Cavalry Division Band from Fort Hood, Texas, stationed in Poland, tuned up prior to the parade on Sunday, June 30, near to where American Sokols gathered. Much to the delight of Sokols, the band had learned a Sokol march just for the occasion. 3. At the end of the gala on Tuesday night, July 2, all the Sokol elite athletic performers gathered on the floor of O2 Arena in Prague to great applause and cheering. 4. The opening flag ceremony was held on the open field in the rain. *Slet* performances occur rain or shine. Much of the cheering audience luckily was under the overhang of the stadium and stayed dry the entire night. 5. Two of the *proštná* on Thursday involved intricate patterns that made for spectacular viewing and great photos. One was *Babí léto proštná*. 6. The other was *V rytmu srdce*.

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## 2024 All-Sokol *Slet* XVII, Prague, Czech Republic, June 30 to July 5



1. *Rocková symfonie* performers filled the entire field. 2. Jason Brozovich (row 1, far right), as a participant in the *rocková symfonie*/Rock Symphony *proštná*, made Sokol Minnesota very proud. 3. On Friday, women performed *Jdi za štěstím* in blue dresses and white sash belts while the Loyal Guard, both men and women with white short-sleeved shirts, navy skirts or trousers, and red belts, waited to join. 4. *Jdi za štěstím* performers and the Loyal Guard joined to create different field patterns. 5. One of the most moving scenes of the entire *Slet* was watching senior Loyal Guard members performing from their chairs and wheelchairs in sync with their Loyal Guard compatriots on the field. There was hardly a dry eye in that section of the stadium. Long live Sokol! 6. *Čmeláčci*, an audience-favorite *proštná*, involved very small children, some just toddlers, and their parents, synchronized in field exercises together and also in their own separate routines.



**2024 All-Sokol *Slet* XVII, Prague, Czech Republic, June 30 to July 5**



1. After soggy Thursday evening conditions, Friday performers of *Před kamerou* appear to welcome the sunshine with open arms!

2. Friday afternoon at Fortuna Arena, these very spirited women wore blue leggings, white shirts, red scarves, and blue hats for their *V rytmu srdce prostrná*.

3. Jason Brozovich found his and Megan's names on the Wall of Names at Fortuna Arena. All participants were listed.

4. Both the Czech and Sokol flags were lowered at the closing ceremony.

**5.** This large Sokol flag was carried off the field, awaiting the next All-Sokol Set in summer 2030.

Special thanks to Megan's and Jason's long-time friend, Martin Špůrek, for providing the Czech names of the various *prostrná*.



**See You in Prague in Summer 2030 for XVIII All-Sokol *Slet*!**





Bohemian Flats Park gathering enjoyed music by Dvořák.

## Bohemian Flats Park Gathering by Cheryl Nelson

On Saturday, July 13, 2024, there was a joyous gathering of Bohemian River Flats descendants and interested guests at the Bohemian Flats Park in Minneapolis on the west bank of the Mississippi River near the Washington Avenue Bridge and next to the University of Minnesota campus. The Hildegard String Quintet from Minnetonka High School welcomed participants by playing Dvořák and other delightful pieces of music.

Four speakers focused on their families and how the Flats played a part in the evolution of their families' journeys. Sally Lieberman, the educational director at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, kicked off the discussion with a fascinating history of the Bohemian River Flats starting from its origin to the present day.

The second speaker was Brenda Bastis Rodgers, a Czech descendant. She spoke of the Bastis family, and how they emerged from the Flats as successful entrepreneurs. Albert Bastis, the great-uncle of Brenda Bastis Rodgers, was a prominent politician in Hennepin County from 1914–1956. He also assisted in the creation of the Sister Kenny Institute's wing for children with polio and the Pig's Eye Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, as well as many other programs that benefited the people of Minneapolis.

The third speaker was Cheryl Nelson, who discussed her Slovak grandparents, the Michalko family, living on the Flats; her mother was the last of her family to be born there. The Michalko family was one of at least five Slovak families, including the Michalko, Stanko, Michalek, Pafko, and Balco families, that moved to Blackduck, Minnesota to farm.

The fourth speaker was a tag team of Michelle Wilson and Gary Nalevanko, who talked at length about their family connections to the Flats and how their family bought land in northern Minnesota to log. They also played a recording of their aunt Mary Harmata speaking about her experience growing up on the Flats. Her favorite childhood memory was of sledding down a hill toward the river.

The last speaker was Tyler Pederson, a landscape architect and design project manager for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. He discussed the evolution of the park, the new addition of landscaping, and what the future might hold for the Bohemian Flats Park.

A number of people who attended also discussed their family connections, how the Slovak Lutheran Church impacted the neighborhood, and the interesting fact that most of the residents from the Slovak Republic came from the towns of Štrba or Važec in the eastern part of the Slovak Republic. There may be informal gatherings in the future of Flat descendants to share stories and information.

Huge thanks to Sally Lieberman and her thoughtful concept and planning of this incredibly special event for the community.



Bohemian Flats Park gathering learned the history of the area from descendants of the settlers.

### ***The Book of Prague with Patrik Banga*** by Gwen Willems

**Popular Czech author Patrik Banga will speak about his story in the newly released *The Book of Prague* on Friday, October 4 at 7 p.m. at C.S.P.S. Hall.**

This collection of ten short stories written about Prague during the last decades is edited by Ivana Myšková and Jan Zikmund, who visited us last March with poet Petr Hruška.

The ten Czech writers are Simona Bohatá, Jan Zábrana, Marie Stryjová, Petr Borkovec, Bohumil Hrabal, Michal Ajvaz, Irena Dousková, Marek Šindelka, Patrik Banga, and Veronika Bendová. All of the stories were translated into English for the first time.

The event is cosponsored by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota. Copies of the book and light refreshments will be available.

### ***Learn Czech or Slovak with Sokol Minnesota!***

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řř éě úúť

**Adult language classes start October 1!**

**Online and in-person options.**

**Many levels, including complete beginner.**

**Friendly and supportive learning atmosphere.**

**High school students**

**may enroll with permission.**

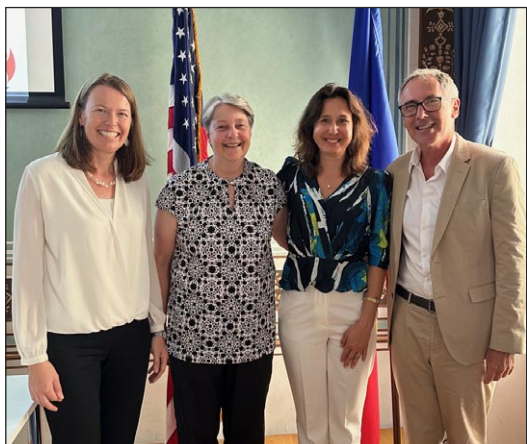
**Register Now**

**at [sokolmn.org](http://sokolmn.org) (Classes tab)**

**Email questions to:**

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

## Mestenhauser International Education Legacy Discussed at the American Embassy in Prague



(L-R) Monica Davis, United States Embassy Representative; Patricia Mestenhauser Bergh; Eva Janebová, MIIC; Jaroslav Kantůrek, diplomat with the Czech Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and immediate past Consul General of the Czech Republic/Chicago (2019–2023).

The Mestenhauser Legacy Initiative was the topic at the American Center at the Embassy of the United States in Prague on July 30. *Bridging Continents: The Mestenhauser Blueprint for the Future of International Education* was organized by Dr. Eva Janebová, a former graduate student of Dr. Josef Mestenhauser at the University of Minnesota and founding director of the Mestenhauser Institute for International Collaboration (MIIC).

The legacy of Dr. Mestenhauser's global imprint on international education was emphasized, along with a panel that discussed *Transforming Futures: The Impact of International Education*. Patricia Bergh Mestenhauser, a member of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, talked about her Czech-born father (1925–2015) as a person, as a mentor, and as a global networker.

MIIC's mission is to empower people and organizations with intercultural competencies to fully embrace the potential of international collaboration so they can thrive in an interconnected world. [www.miic.world](http://www.miic.world)

## Preschool, Children's, and Teen Folk Dancing

Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. - noon  
begins early October

[folkdancing@sokolmn.org](mailto:folkdancing@sokolmn.org)

## Sokol Minnesota Gymnastics Classes at the C.S.P.S. Hall

383 Michigan Street, Saint Paul

**No experience necessary!**

Gymnastics for everyone ages 4-18

Monday  
Tuesday  
& Thursday  
evenings  
beginning  
in September.

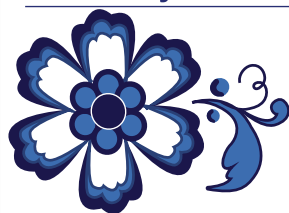


More details: [fitness@sokolmn.org](mailto:fitness@sokolmn.org)

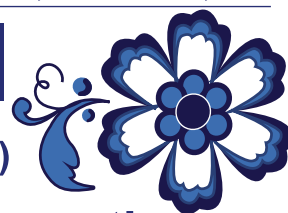
# Tastes from the Czech Republic

## 42nd Annual Czech Dinner

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota • C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul, MN



**Sunday, October 27** <sup>20</sup>/<sub>24</sub>  
**12:30 p.m.** (doors and bar open 12N)



### Menu:

**Traditional  
Czech schnitzel  
potato salad**  
(řízek s bramborovým salátem)  
**garlic soup**  
(česnečka)  
**rye bread**  
**apple strudel**  
**and coffee**

### Price:

**\$35 per person**



### Reservations:

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

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

Prepaid dinner reservation  
cut-off is October 20.



## Sandy-Fritz Prochaska Donates Sound Equipment by Richard Sargent

Sandy-Fritz Prochaska, a member of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, has generously given to both groups the sound equipment used by her late father Gordy Prochaska for his band, which played several times in C.S.P.S. Hall.

The speakers, now hanging from the wall at the front of the gym in C.S.P.S. Hall and installed by Rick Palma, are part of Sandy's gift.

The previous speakers were causing trouble.

Thanks to Sandy, we will have more sound equipment for our Czech & Slovak Festival and for other events in the future.



Sandy, dancing with her partner Rick Palma, at a previous Czech & Slovak Festival.

## Kolo Sokol Bike Club

### Scheduled ride dates 2024:

- 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](http://sokolmn.org/bike)



4th annual

## Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest

Saturday  
October 26 20  
24  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Family friendly outdoor event!  
C.S.P.S. Hall, 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul  
Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest.  
Parking lot walk-through with games, treats, and a photo op for Sokol kids 12 and under!



## Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

Sokol Minnesota would like to welcome the following new members, accepted by the board in June and July.  
**Kate Weeks**, Woodbury, with interests in language, cooking, and crafting classes; history and genealogy; event setup, kitchen work, serving, and cleanup; and other activities.

**Perry McGowan**, Forest Lake, with interests in cooking and crafting classes.

**Elizabeth and Frederick Clare**, Inver Grove Heights, with interests in adult dance, literature and bicycle groups; language, cooking, and crafting classes; films and theater; music and dances; history and genealogy; event kitchen and booth help; and other activities.

**Sara Maruska**, Saint Paul.

**James Chladek**, Minneapolis, with interests in language classes; films and theater.

**Lisa Kopas-Lane and Thomas Lane**, Excelsior, with interests in language classes, cooking classes, history and genealogy.

**Welcome to our newest members!**

<https://sokolmn.org/membership/>

## Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

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

### GENERAL FUND

**Under \$99: Diane S. Halvorson, Finn Sullivan**

(Bohemian Flats Event) **Camille D'Cruz, Toni Chipka**

(Hubal Restoration) **M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney**

**\$100 - \$499: (Bohemian Flats Event) Bob Chipka,**

**Michael Wolesky**

(Hubal Restoration) **Sally Lieberman**

**\$500 - \$9,999: (In Memory of Terry Shima) Margaret Lutz**

**TOTAL \$1,046**

## Tai Chi and Kung Fu at C.S.P.S.

**Kung Fu: Wednesdays 6-7 p.m**

**Tai Chi: Wednesdays 7-8 p.m.**



## Sokol Gift Shop Booth at Bechyn on August 11

For a second year, Sokol gift shop was invited to Bechyn, Minnesota to be a vendor at the 33rd annual Czech Heritage Festival.

Bechyn is located two hours west of Saint Paul, where families get together from all over to remember their Czech ancestors who settled there.

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## CZECH & SLOVAK FESTIVAL

The Czech & Slovak Festival offers businesses, programs, organizations, and well wishers space to place an ad each year in the program handout.

If interested contact:  
[ads4sokolmn@earthlink.net](mailto:ads4sokolmn@earthlink.net)

Place your \$20 camera ready ad here.

1" x 3"

Place your \$20 camera ready ad here.

2" x 1.5"

Place your \$10 well wisher ad here.

1" x 1.125"

Deadline:  
Tuesday,  
September 10



## Celebrating the Large-scale Fine Artwork of Victor Hubal, Sr. by Jean Draheim



Dr. Wendy Waszut-Barrett, PhD, the presenter.

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is honored that our C.S.P.S. Hall is the home to the only known collection of large-scale, scenic stage backdrops done solely by the nationally known artist Victor Hubal, Sr. These large backdrops are used on the stage.

Sokol Minnesota members, Hubal family members, interested scholars, and community members attended an informational presentation given by Dr. Wendy Waszut-Barrett, PhD, on July 21, 2024. Dr. Waszut-Barrett spoke about Hubal's personal and professional history and his place in the early 20th century art world. She also stressed the importance of Sokol's collection, its value, and the need to restore and preserve the artwork.



Among the descendants of Victor Hubal, Sr., at the presentation were grandchildren (L-R) Marilyn (Hubal) Meyer, Richard Hubal, Brandt Hubal, Kathy (Burke) Novorolsky, Mary (Burke) Kalzer, and James Burke.



Following a brief intermission, audience members were shown the different flats, ground rows, and roll drops in the collection. Guests were able to view the construction of the flats and the mechanics of the roll drops. There were opportunities to have photos taken with some of the artwork.



Stage Committee co-chairs Chuck Draheim and Jean Draheim send a huge thank you to all of the Sokol members, volunteers, and staff who worked to make the afternoon so successful: Dawn Bulera, Mary Cahill, Bob Kotek, Míša Kotek, Marit Kucera, Sally Lieberman, Juan Marquez, Doreen McKenney, Markéta Pálková and Matthew Resong, Joan Sedlacek, Dave Stepan, John Topic, and Mike Topic. All were instrumental in making the afternoon welcoming and enjoyable.



Sokol Minnesota is raising funds for the restoration and conservation of these historic treasures. Our event guests started us off in the

right direction by donating over \$300 during the presentation. Soon, you too will be able to support the restoration of the artwork by donating directly online through the Sokol website, [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org). There will also be T-shirts for sale during the Czech & Slovak Festival on September 29. If you would like to reserve your shirts ahead of the festival, you may order them online by going to [www.sokolmn.org](http://www.sokolmn.org).

For more information about Dr. Waszut-Barrett and Victor Hubal, Sr., please go to:

<https://drypigment.net/2019/09/19/tales-from-a-scenic-artist-and-scholar-part-796-victor-j-hubal-sr-and-the-cesko-slovansky-podporujici-spolek-c-s-p-s-hall-in-st-paul-minnesota/>

<https://drypigment.net/2019/09/20/tales-from-a-scenic-artist-and-scholar-part-797-victor-j-hubal-and-the-joy-cannon-scenic-studio-in-st-paul-mn/>

<https://drypigment.net/2022/11/07/sosman-landis-shaping-the-landscape-of-american-theatre-employee-no-97-victor-hubal-sr/>





**The 35th Annual Czech & Slovak Festival**  
**Sunday, September 29, 2024**  
**11 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**This year's festival is on Sunday, September 29, and you can help!**

**Help Make Our 35th Annual Czech & Slovak Fall Festival a Success** by Joyce Tesarek

It will be another wonderful time with food, beer, music, colorful folk costumes and dance, kid's games, and more!

For questions or more information contact Joyce Tesarek at 612-232-2993 or email us at [festival@sokolmn.org](mailto:festival@sokolmn.org)

**Come Volunteer**

Your help is needed to make our festival a success!

A variety of tasks are available, before, during, and after the event, for people of all skill and mobility levels. Enjoy the fun and fellowship of being a volunteer, and spend time enjoying all the activities.

We especially welcome volunteers familiar with using Square for credit card payments.

**Sale/Silent Auction Table**

Do you have a new or gently used item (Czech/Slovak pottery, antique, household item, et cetera), want to create a theme basket (holiday, spa items, et cetera), or want to donate a gift certificate (weekend at your cabin, bake two dozen koláče) to add to the festival table?

Do you have a business or know of one that would donate a gift certificate we could auction? (Please collect business cards and we will display them next to the certificate.)

**Be creative! People love to shop. All income goes to restore our historic C.S.P.S. Hall.**

Items can be dropped off at the Hall on Mondays from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. or Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be a box for donations inside the door of the Hall.

Please label your donation "Silent Auction"  
and include your name, phone, and email for us to acknowledge your donation.

If you have questions or need another dropoff time,  
contact Denise Stibal at 763-647-0563 or email us at [festival@sokolmn.org](mailto:festival@sokolmn.org)

**See you all on September 29!**

**July Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board Highlights** by Joyce Tesarek

The July 18, 2024 virtual Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

Attendees included board members Fred Simon, acting chair; Joyce Tesarek, acting secretary; Jean Draheim; Bob Kotek; Ed Hamernik; Sally Lieberman; and Markéta Pálková. Also attending was Sokol member M. L. Kucera.

The board reviewed and approved the June meeting minutes. No quorum was present, so votes will need to be completed by email votes by the excused members.

Sally shared information on a proposed co-sponsored event with Czech author Patrik Baga and reported on the very successful Bohemian Flats Park Get-Together and Christmas in July baking class led by Míša Kotek.

**12 September 2024 Slovo**

The Board of Instructors (BOI) reported on the Prague *Slet*. Six Sokol Minnesota members attended. Jason Brozovich performed in a *prostná*. Joan Sedlacek carried the Western District Sokol flag in the parade. Gymnastics classes will resume in late September. The BOI is currently working on coaching coverage. Kung fu will hopefully be offering a self-defense course/day toward the end of this summer, date to be determined.

The Building and Trustee Committee accepted the bid from All City Elevator to clean and rehabilitate the elevator pit. The \$400 request to install the commemorative plaque cut into the large stone in the parking lot to prevent theft was approved.

The Finance Committee report included a summary of cash accounts. The Board approved

a transfer of some funds from checking to a money market account for improved interest.

Seven new members were approved, making our current membership 318.

Gaming expenses were approved. Gaming fiscal year is July 1–June 30. Because we had gross sales over \$750,000, there will be an automatic audit by the Gambling Control Board. Keenan's, our site, has been sold to one of the employees. No changes predicted.

The Stage Restoration Committee reported a on the upcoming presentation by Dr. Wendy Waszut-Barret on Sunday, July 21, at 2 p.m. As a fundraising opportunity, shirts will be printed to sell at the Czech & Slovak Festival. The board approved having 40 shirts printed.

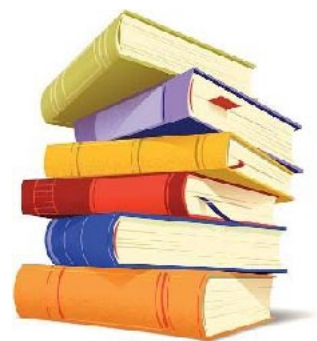


## Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures 2024-2025

Join us for small-group informal discussions  
of Czech and Slovak books in English translation.  
Everyone is welcome. Please read the books in advance.

Meetings are held both in-person at the C.S.P.S. Hall,  
and virtually (request link from [literaryventures@sokolmn.org](mailto:literaryventures@sokolmn.org))

Discussions are cosponsored by the  
Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota,  
Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota,  
and the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis.



### 2024 – Book discussions and Film viewing

#### Saturday, September 21, 10 a.m. - noon

*A Tale of Two Parties: Living Amongst Democrats and Republicans Since 1952* by Kenneth Janda - Book discussion

#### Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m. - noon

*The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka, any translation - Book discussion

#### Saturday, November 16, 10 a.m. - noon

*Tatra: The Legacy of Hans Ledwinka* by John G. Margolius and John G. Henry - Book discussion

#### Saturday, December 28, 10 a.m. - noon

*Toman* - Film viewing

Questions? Contact [gwen@cs-center.org](mailto:gwen@cs-center.org)

See page 12 for the monthly **BOOK REVIEW**  
by Gwen Willems, Ph.D.: The Beautiful Water Nymph Rusalka  
Continues to Charm. (*Rusalka* by Jaroslav Kvapil.)

### 2025 – Book discussions

#### Saturday, January 18, 10 a.m. - noon

*Mucha: The Triumph of Art Nouveau* by Arthur Ellridge,  
or other book about Mucha - Book discussion

#### Saturday, February 15, 10 a.m. - noon

*The Glass Room* by Simon Mawer Baer - Book discussion

#### Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m. - noon

*Still Pictures: On Photography and Memory* by Janet Malcolm - Book discussion

#### Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. - noon

*The Cello Still Sings: A Generational Story of the Holocaust and of the Transformative Power of Music* by Janet Horvath - Book discussion

#### Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. - noon

*Carving His Own Destiny: The Story of Albin Polášek* by Ruth Sherwood, and optional companion book, *A Bohemian Girl in America*, Mrs. Polášek's short autobiography (pdf available) - Book discussion

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:slovo@sokolmn.org)

**Advertising:** For information on due dates and

rates, please email [slovo@sokolmn.org](mailto: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, M. L. Kucera, 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, 7, 8, 9).

#### September issue contributors:

Lucy Brudnak Rose, Mary Cahill, Jean Draheim, Steve Ernest, Arlene Hamernik, M. L. Kucera, Sally Lieberman, Doreen McKenney, Cheryl Nelson, Richard Sargent, Jitka Sebek, Joan Sedlacek, Bonnie Simon, Joyce Tesarek, and Gwen Willems.

#### September issue photographs, ads, or

**illustrations:** Megan Brozovich, Dennis Cahill, Matt Carlozzi, ČOS (The Czech Union Sokol/Česká obec sokolská), Jean Draheim, Bruce A. Grannes, M. L. Kucera, Pam Langworthy, Jay Lieberman, Sally Lieberman, Doreen McKenney, Joan Sedlacek, Martin Špůrek, Joyce Tesarek, and Gwen Willems.

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



*Rusalka* by Jaroslav Kvapil, translated from the Czech by Patrick John Corness. Karolinum Press: Prague, 135 pages, 2021. Available at libraries and bookstores.

*Rusalka* was written as a poem by Czech poet, playwright, translator, and theater director Jaroslav Kvapil in 1898. He had just spent the summer on a Danish island immersed in Hans Christian Anderson's *The Little Mermaid*, Božena Němcová's *Folk Tales and Legends*, and K. J. Erben's *Kytice*. Compared to the Scandinavian *Little Mermaid*, Kvapil's *Rusalka* has a more complex protagonist, refined poetic techniques, a dramatic pace, and gloomy undertones. *Rusalka*, which tells the story of a Slavic water nymph who must choose between love and immortality, is a distinct work of modern Czech literature.

During the next year, after completing a libretto of *Rusalka*, Kvapil met with the well-established composer Antonín Dvořák, who happened to be interested in finding a fairy tale for another opera. Dvořák accepted the libretto almost virtually as written.

First performed in Prague in 1901 with soprano Růžena Maturová singing the title role, the opera quickly became the most successful of Dvořák's operas and most popular of all Czech operas after Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*. Today it is among the standard repertoires of opera houses worldwide.

In 2021, the Karolinum Press in Prague published, in its Modern Czech Classics series, an edition of this lyric poem newly translated by Patrick John Corness, who works in English, Czech, German, Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian. This edition includes side-by-side Czech and English pages and is accompanied by wistful watercolor illustrations by Jiří Grus, plus author and translator biographies, an afterword, and translator's notes.

*Rusalka* tells of the tragic conflict of incompatible worlds. A beautiful water nymph with long golden hair who lives in a supernatural world falls in love with a prince in a natural world. When she tells her father the water goblin that she has fallen in love with a prince and wants to become human to be with him, he tells her it is a bad idea but refers her to a witch, Ježibaba. If *Rusalka* becomes human, she will lose speech and immortality. If their love does not work out, he will die and she will be eternally damned. Ježibaba tells *Rusalka*:

For if this love you crave you cannot keep,  
my curse will draw you back into the deep.  
Before you gain this love you'll suffer dear –  
no word you say will human hear.

*Rusalka* is deeply in love and describes her encounters with the prince:

He comes here often, yes,  
and by the weir disrobes,  
He enters my embrace;  
held in my arms he bathes,  
but I am just a wave, it's true,  
a being hidden from his view.

I know that human form,  
first of all, I must assume.  
Then when once more he comes  
and I wind him in my arms  
he too will hold me close,  
with hot passion in his kiss.

She seeks comfort from the moon:

O silver moon, give him a sign,  
my arms it is that him entwine.  
And may he dream he's with me once again,  
for just a moment, now and then.  
Light up his path and say  
who here awaits him every day.  
If his human soul dreams of me,  
may he wake with this memory.  
Dear moon, don't fade away, oh don't fade!  
The water is so cold, so cold!

*Rusalka* and the prince plan their wedding, but the prince is fickle and flirts with another woman who has come for the ceremony. *Rusalka* is rebuffed and returns to the water, but the prince realizes he truly loves her. *Rusalka* says to the prince:

Once I could give you love, plight my troth,  
now all I bring to you is death.

The prince replies:

Without you I cannot live,  
Can you, can you still forgive?

At the end, the prince tells *Rusalka*:

Kiss me, kiss me, grant me peace,  
let worldly joys for ever cease.  
Kiss me to death, kiss me please.

*Rusalka* kisses him, and as he dies he says:

My sin shall be absolved by your kiss.  
Happy I die, held in your embrace!

I have been fortunate to see three distinctly different versions of the opera *Rusalka*. One put on by the Minnesota Opera was minimally staged, another in the Czech Republic was a colorful water show accompanied by music, and the third was a beautiful, full staging by the Met Opera with the incomparable Renée Fleming as the beguiling water nymph. The opera *Rusalka* is a delightful combination of music, romance, and fairy tale.

I enjoyed all three productions and am pleased to add a reading of the beautiful original poem to my experiences.

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 at 10 a.m.  
on Saturday, September 21, for a discussion of  
*A Tale of Two Parties: Living Amongst Democrats and Republicans Since 1952* by Kenneth Janda.



# Czech Honorary Consul News

September  
2024

It was one of the thrills of my lifetime to be a part, the second time for me, of XVII All-Sokol *Slet* in Prague, the spectacular international event, June 30 to July 5, that Sokols treasure as *Slet*, the gathering of the falcons (Sokols). See pages 3-6.

The 90th Annual Kolacky Days parade on July 28 brought home to Montgomery scores of past queens, all with similar red skirts with braid, white blouses, and sashes. These past queens are already planning their 100th reunion. I was able to catch up with this year's royalty at the fire station, on my way from the flag-raising ceremony at Vine Avenue East and First Street South in downtown Montgomery to the parade route line-up at number A43 on Third Street Southwest.



(L-R) First Princess Olivia Skluzacek, Queen Neysa Anderson, Czech Honorary Consul Kucera, and Second Princess/Miss Congeniality Tayla Kline.



Riding again in Lloyd Krocak's 1949 Plymouth Convertible for the Kolacky Days parade in Montgomery, chauffeured this year by his nephew Robert Krocak, were Fred Simon, president of the Czech Heritage Club (CHC); Violet Chromy, past CHC president; and Czech Honorary Consul M. L. Kucera.

The Ritz Theater/Theater Latté Da in Northeast Minneapolis did a series of musicals-in-the-making, including *My Ántonia*, for two script-reading/acting/singing performances in early August. Renáta Tichá assisted with the Czech dialogues. Willa Cather's classic novel of immigrant life on the Nebraska prairie, *My Ántonia*, chronicles the story of how a young man's life is profoundly shaped by the friendship with the new neighbors, recent immigrants from Bohemia, now living on a sod farm two miles down the road. Theater Latté Da hopes to add this production to its 2025-2026 schedule. It is a must-see! I give it the highest of praises! <https://www.latteda.org>

(L-R) M. L. Kucera, Renáta Tichá, Jessie Austrian (director), Kate Kilbane and Dan Moses (music and lyrics), Noah Brody (adapted Willa Cather's story; with Czech heritage, originally from New Jersey).



In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the museum is adding an *orloj* clock to the remodeled outdoor clock tower. The dedication is September 21. The clock is modeled after the famous Prague *Orloj*, the 15th-century astronomical clock attached to the Old Town Hall in Prague, which tells the position of the sun, moon, and zodiac constellations in addition to 24-hour time. While the figurines in the Prague *Orloj* are the 12 apostles, the dozen figurines in the NCSML *orloj* will tell the Czech, Moravian, and Slovak immigrant story, including a farmer, a meatpacker, a beekeeper, and a coal miner. Current honorary consuls of the Czech Republic here in the United States are sponsoring the merchant figurine.

Established in 1974, NCSML preserves the historic and cultural heritage of the Czech and Slovak people in North America. Congress recognized it in 1992 as the official national Czech and Slovak museum and library. NCSML became a Smithsonian Affiliate in 2019. <https://ncsml.org>



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic  
in Minneapolis, MN

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### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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**

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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/](http://sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/)

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

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

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

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

#### Sokol Minnesota Friendly Evenings

Friday: September 13, October 11, November 8,  
December 13, and January 10, 2025, 7-10 p.m.\*\*

Card and board games, fun, food, friends, and a few surprises!

#### 35th Annual Czech & Slovak Festival

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

• Free Admission • Public Welcome • Accessible Facility

Ethnic food, beer/beverages, live music, dance and gymnastic performances, children's games, street vendors, exhibits, information booths, SMYL book sale, Sokol Gift Shop, silent auction, and special guests.

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

Vendors: 651-210-0401 or [activities@sokolmn.org](mailto:activities@sokolmn.org)

#### Fourth Annual Trunks with Treats Harvest Fest

Saturday, October 26, 10 a.m.-Noon. C.S.P.S. Hall parking lot

Family-friendly games, treats, photo op. For Sokol kids 12 and under. Hosted by Sokol Minnesota Youth Link (SMYL).

#### Tastes from the Czech Republic

##### 42nd Annual Czech Dinner

Sunday, October 27. Doors and bar open: Noon  
Sit-down dinner served: 12:30 p.m.

Traditional Czech Schnitzel (řízek), Czech potato salad (bramborový salát), garlic soup (česnečka), rye bread, apple strudel, and coffee.

\$35 per person. Bar: beer, wine, soft drinks.

Pre-paid reservation by Wednesday, October 20.\*

#### Annual Sokol Membership Meeting

Friday, November 22, 7 p.m.

Annual meeting, election of officers, membership anniversary recognition, and social time.

#### Holiday Breakfast/Craft and Koláče Sale

Sunday, November 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

• No Reservations Needed • Public Welcome

\$10 adult; \$6 children under 9; \$30/family of four  
Pancake breakfast with all the fixings.

Koláče \$2 each (apricot, cream cheese, poppy seed, prune, or raspberry). Pre-paid/pre-pay\* koláče order by Saturday, November 16.

To reserve a craft table: [activities@sokolmn.org](mailto:activities@sokolmn.org)

#### Children's Holiday Party

Friday, December 6, 7 p.m.

Performances by the children and teen dancers, plus Sokol Singers. Special visits from Saint Nicolas, the Angel, and the Devil.

#### 2025 Svičková Dinner/Svičková s knedlíkem

Saturday, January 25, 2025. \$30 person.\*

Doors open: 4:30 p.m. Sit-down dinner served: 5 p.m.

Beef in cream sauce with bread dumplings, coffee, and dessert. Bar: beer, wine, soft drinks.

Pre-paid reservation by Friday, January 17, 2025.\*

Place your prepaid order early. Limited number of dinners available.\*\*



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

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