

CZECH AND SLOVAK



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

SLOVO

October 2024
vol. 47 no. 8

UPCOMING EVENTS

**November Slovo
articles due October 1**

**Sokol Minnesota
Singers**
Tuesdays, Oct. 1 and 15
10 a.m.-noon

The Book of Prague
with Patrik Banga
October 4, 7 p.m.
See page 7

**Friendly Friday
Evening Social**
October 11, 7 p.m.
See page 8

**Fall Language
Classes** See page 5

Kolo Bike Club
October 20, Meet at
C.S.P.S. Hall at 10 a.m.

Sokol Gift Shop
For hours see page 6

**Sokol Annual
Membership Meeting**
Friday, November 22
C.S.P.S. Hall at 7 p.m.

**Holiday
Breakfast, Craft, and
Koláče Bake Sale**
Saturday, November 24
(info on page 12)

**Volunteer
Open Positions
at Sokol Minnesota**
(info on page 6)

**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!

Hosted by
Czech and Slovak
Sokol Minnesota
and
Sokol Minnesota
Youth Link
(SMYL)

Tastes from the Czech Republic



42nd Annual Czech Dinner

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota



Sunday, October 27 ²⁰/₂₄

12:30 p.m. (doors and bar open 12N)

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

Menu:

**Traditional
Czech schnitzel
potato salad**
(řízek s bramborovým salátem)
garlic soup
(česnekačka)
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/

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

Prepaid dinner reservation
cut-off is October 20.

Prezidentčin komentář/President's Notes by Lucy Rose

Looking ahead to the final few months of 2024, I want to make sure you are aware of an important event coming up, for which your input as a member of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is greatly appreciated. Our Sokol annual membership meeting will take place at the C.S.P.S. Hall on Friday, November 22 at 7 p.m. It is during this meeting that our organization celebrates our membership, elects officers for open positions on the board of directors, and elects delegates from our local Sokol unit to represent us at the Western District level of the national American Sokol organization. If you are interested in celebrating our organization with other members of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and learning more about the board of directors and the various committees that keep our organization running, a good way to start is by looking at the board of directors page on our website: <https://sokolmn.org/sokol-minnesota-board-of-directors/>



Lucy
Brudnak Rose

If you want to share your talents by serving on the board or one of our committees, please don't hesitate to contact me at president@sokolmn.org and let me know what skills and talents you have to share. We aim to include a list of nominees for open elected positions in the November issue of the Slovo, so if you're thinking of throwing your hat in the ring for a seat on the board, please get in touch soon! Also, make sure to reserve the evening of November 22 on your calendar so that you can join us at the C.S.P.S. Hall for our annual membership meeting at 7 p.m.

Although our fun-filled annual Czech & Slovak Festival is behind us now, we are not slowing down as we head into fall! Our dedicated volunteers are busy preparing several exciting events for you to enjoy over the next few weeks in October. Our final Kolo Bike Club ride of the year will be on October 20. If you are interested in joining other Sokols for an afternoon of exercise and socializing, the cyclists meet at the C.S.P.S. Hall at 10 a.m. for a two-to-three-hour ride.

If you have children or grandchildren who enjoy Halloween, please bring them to the C.S.P.S. Hall parking lot on Saturday, October 26 from 10 a.m. to noon for Trunks with Treats. For this event, Sokol volunteers, including some of our teen members from Sokol Minnesota Youth Link, decorate the parking lot with Halloween- and Harvest Fest-themed displays. Children are welcome to explore the different stations set up throughout the parking lot, where they can play games, win prizes, and collect some delicious Halloween treats along the way. Halloween costumes are welcome, but not required!

And just as we did with our festival in September, we will bring October to a festive close with another wonderful volunteer-led event. The Tastes from the Czech Republic dinner, our 42nd annual Czech dinner, takes place on Sunday, October 27 at 12:30 p.m. These ethnic dinners are always such a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the food and traditions of our shared cultural heritage and to bring our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota community together for an afternoon of socializing and fellowship. The deadline for prepaid reservations is October 20. You can reserve your seats online at www.sokolmn.org/cc or by phone at 651-210-0401. Please make your reservations soon and join us for homemade schnitzel, potato salad, garlic soup, strudel, and coffee on October 27!

As the transition into fall is upon us and the knowledge that "winter hibernation mode" is also not too far ahead, I hope you will take advantage of these upcoming weeks of crisp but still manageable weather to join us for some of the wonderful events at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. I look forward to seeing you at one of the many events we've got planned in the coming weeks and at our annual membership meeting next month!

Nazdar!

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

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Recording Secretary

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Corresponding Secretary

Bonnie Simon

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

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

Sokol Minnesota Visited Lexington Landing by Bob Kotek

On the afternoon of August 1, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota took a program to Lexington Landing at Lexington and West 7th in Saint Paul. Fred Simon provided a slide overview of Sokol Minnesota to residents, along with a perspective on his Czech heritage. Other Sokol members, including Bob Kotek and M. L. Kucera, did the same, emphasizing their pride in their heritage. But it was Dave Stepan who stole the show. Many Lexington Landing residents came to the program because they remembered the time that the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers entertained them, and they were hoping to see more folk dancing. When Dave learned this, he opened his computer to one of the folk dances he had on video. He danced right along with the video. The audience was delighted and clapped with great appreciation. Residents took the opportunity to sign up for Sokol's e-blast to stay abreast of the many activities available at Sokol Minnesota. The wonderful connections here are the three Montgomery-Lonsdale high school



(L-R) M. L. Kucera, Dave Stepan, Bob Kotek, Michele Kelm-Helgen, the nine Lexington Landing residents who stayed for the picture, and Fred Simon.

friends (class of 1973) who have stayed connected: Fred, Bob, and Michele Kelm-Helgen, who is a member of the J. A. Wedum Foundation's Board of Trustees. Lexington Landing, which offers independent living, assisted living, and memory care apartment homes, is owned by the J. A. Wedum Foundation. The J. A. Wedum Foundation has been generous to Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, providing over \$30,000 in grants over the past four years. This year's \$13,000 grant is designated for elevator and heating system maintenance. Sammi White, who is the Life Enrichment Director at Lexington Landing, warmly welcomed Sokol Minnesota and also took this picture.



Česká and Československá beseda. The audience appeared surprised that there is a group such as this in the United States performing Czech dances; there were multiple comments of appreciation. For those in attendance and for those performing, it was perhaps an experience of a lifetime.

Picture left: Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers with the *Řečkovická hodová chasa* (Řečkovice folklore group). Right: Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers looking for someone to fill their glasses with wine!

Festival in Řečkovice, Czech Republic by Dave Stepan

Nineteen members of the Saint Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers (SPCSFD) traveled to the Czech Republic to dance this past August. For the first time ever, the festival (*Svatý Vavřinec hody*) in Řečkovice (suburb of Brno) included an American folk dance troupe. The event included cutting the 130-foot *máj* pole (tree), placing it on a wagon, pushing it to town, and raising it.

The event started on Thursday and continued through the wee hours of Sunday night. Many members of the SPCSFD were overwhelmed by the reception from the Czech audience. Some dancers were hosted by fellow Sokol members and others stayed in hotel or VRBO-type lodging. The 44 members of the Řečkovice dance group were young, between the ages of 16 and 22, but had a good command of the English language.

The SPCSFD performed both Saturday and Sunday. They were also included in a performance with the Řečkovice group for the



The 94th Annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic Was a Great Success by Kari and Scott Muyres



Smiling young volunteers prepare the kids game station!
(L-R) Carden, Addison, Harlow, and Samuel.

The 94th annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic was a great success! The Lipa Carpatho-Rusyn Slovak Dancers and guitarist-vocalist Dave Carlson provided live entertainment to the large crowd of attendees.

Three kettles of Booya were almost sold out, along with hundreds of *koláče*, homemade cabbage rolls, and meatloaf.

Mother Nature decided to cooperate, and a sunshine-filled day without rain provided us with a perfect environment to share in Sokol fellowship.



Booya picnic co-chairpersons Scott and Kari Muyres address and thank the crowd.



Lead Booya chefs Ray and Rich Vanyo celebrate with an end-of-the-day handshake.



Singer Dave Carlson performs live at the lakeside camp stage.

Congratulations to this year's raffle ticket winners:

\$200 Chuck Draheim

\$100 Mary Edel Joyce

\$50 Brenda Rodgers

\$50 Mary Krizan

We are very appreciative of our dedicated and hardworking volunteers for helping make this tradition successful for the camp's longevity.

If you have not visited the camp in a while, please stop in to check out the many building improvements or simply enjoy the nature and tranquility of this beloved Sokol treasure.

Donations to the camp may be sent to
Rich Vanyo, 612-860-0391.

**Please join us next year on Sunday, August 10, 2025,
for the 95th annual Sokol Camp Booya Picnic!**

4 October 2024 *Slovo*



PLAYING. SHARING. INSPIRING.

Yuri Ivan, KSO Artistic Director and Conductor

Music from Eastern Europe

Viktor Telychko (Carpatho-Rusyn)

Suite of Carpatho-Rusyn Songs

Valentin Silvestrov (Ukrainian)

Symphony No. 7

Leos Janacek (Czech)

Sinfonietta aka Sletova Symfonietta "Sokol Festival"

Originally dedicated to the Czecho-Slovak Armed Forces

Featuring Twin Cities Trumpet Ensemble

Mykola Leontovych (Ukrainian)

English Version by **Peter J. Wilhovsky (Carpatho-Rusyn)**

Carol of the Bells originally Shchedryk

Arr. Jim Olcott

**Featuring cimbalom artist Gyorgy Lakatos
courtesy of the Timo Foundation**

Saturday, November 2, 2024, 7:30 PM

Buetow Auditorium, Concordia College
300 Hamline Ave N
St. Paul, MN

This concert is FREE and open to the public. Donations welcome

Summer Czech Course in Poděbrady, Czech Republic by Tim Kojetin



This time of year, many conversations begin with what we did over summer vacation. In mid-spring, Tim Kojetin, of Deephaven, Minnesota, found out that he was awarded a scholarship to spend the month of July studying Czech language and culture in the Czech Republic.

After celebrating American Independence Day, Tim boarded a plane for Prague. After arriving at Václav Havel Airport, he was on a bus to Poděbrady, 45 km east of Prague. For the next four weeks, Tim was a student at the Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies of Charles University (Univerzita Karlova). The campus is a castle that was built in 1345, replacing a wooden fortress that is still undated.

The 2024 class of Czech Language for Expatriates had 78 members from 22 different countries, with students ranging from 18 to 84 years old. Nearly everyone lived in dormitories with a roommate. All meals were on the local economy.

Tim's typical day started out with a walk to a bakery for a freshly made *koláč* and coffee. Then to the castle, up 83 irregular steps (we counted them) to the classroom, where we were broken into cohorts based on our Czech-language ability (introductory to nearly native-speaker). Mornings consisted of five hours of intensive language classes, then a break for lunch at a local café. Afternoons and evenings consisted of a combination of lectures, tours, field trips, hiking, and sports. Many language classes had dinner together because so much language and culture can be discussed at a local restaurant or pub. Weekends were busy with bus tours to amazing places like Prague, Hora Říp, Kutná Hora, Terezín, Lidice, and Přerov nad Labem. At the completion of the course our certificates were presented to us by representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education at the Černín Palace in Prague.

After a month in the Czech Republic, things got very exciting for Tim when he was joined by his wife and children. They toured Prague, enjoying its many sights and foods. There was exciting history, architecture, music, and entertainment around every corner. After five action-packed days, they drove 100 km south of Prague to Tim's ancestral village of Bechyně. The mayor met them with coffee and *koláče*, of course, and a special guest: Anna Kojetinová Vrábková, Tim's newly discovered third cousin. They had a wonderful exchange of family information and left with a quest to link Bechyně with a sister city in Minnesota.

The vacation continued with travel to Český Krumlov and back to Prague. On Tim's final night, he and his family celebrated his daughter's 16th birthday with a special dinner at Café Imperial.

After six weeks, Tim was home again after a very busy, intensive, and heartwarming visit to the Czech Republic.

Don't miss your opportunity to experience your own adventure next year! Sokol Minnesota will have information in January about the 2025 scholarships for summer language study abroad.

1. Tim Kojetin with his cousin Anna Kojetinová Vrábková. 2. Capturing the moment in the mayor's office, Bechyně, Czech Republic. Mike Cwach, Anna Kojetinová Vrábková, Tim Kojetin, Andrew Kojetin, Štěpánek Ondřich, Alexandra Kojetin, and Christine Kojetin. 3. Alexandra, Tim, and Andrew Kojetin in Bechyně. 4. The 14th century Poděbrady Castle is a modern university campus. 5. On Charles Bridge. 6. Prague Castle in the background.



Learn Czech or Slovak with Sokol Minnesota!

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řř éě úů ť

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 (Classes tab)

Email questions to:

education@sokolmn.org

“Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis*, and Parodies of His Work”

A Talk by Thomas Gurke

Friday, November 15, 2024, 7 p.m.
C.S.P.S. Hall, Second Floor

Join us for a talk commemorating Franz Kafka's death 100 years ago. Thomas Gurke will give an overview of Kafka and his literary works, his most popular book *The Metamorphosis*, and adaptations of it.

Thomas Gurke, Ph.D., is director of graduate studies in the department of German, Nordic, Slavic & Dutch at the University of Minnesota.

The talk is cosponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis.

Find updates at cs-center.org
or contact gwen@cs-center.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

Sokol Volunteer Opportunities

Join the Board of Directors
as Recording Secretary
or as Publicity Director

For more info: board@sokolmn.org

Volunteer
at the
Czech Dinner on October 27
and at the
Pancake Breakfast on November 24
Email activities@sokolmn.org

October - December 2024 Czech and Slovak Gift Shop Hours

385 Michigan Street, Saint Paul, MN (street entrance)



- Sunday, September 29, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday, October 27, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Sunday, November 24, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. (second floor craft sale)
- Small Business Saturday, November 30, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Friday, December 6, 4 - 7 p.m.
- Schedule an appointment: giftshop@sokolmn.org

Merchandise is owned by Sokol Minnesota and run by Sokol volunteers



The Book of Prague

A Talk about Czech Short Stories with
Patrik Banga, Alex Zucker, and Jan Zikmund

Friday, October 4, 2024, 7:00 p.m.

C.S.P.S. Hall, Second Floor

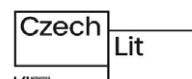
Social time will follow and books will be available to purchase.

The talk. Learn about Czech literature from famous author Patrik Banga and translators Alex Zucker and book co-editor Jan Zikmund. They will discuss *The Book of Prague*, a newly translated book in English. It features ten short stories by ten Czech writers: Simona Bohatá, Jan Zábrana, Marie Stryjová, Petr Borkovec, Michal Ajvaz, Bohumil Hrabal, Irena Dousková, Marek Šindelka, Patrik Banga, and Veronika Bendová.

They will give an introduction and general overview of *The Book of Prague*; then Banga will read his story in Czech and talk about it and Zucker will read it in English. All three will talk about contemporary Czech literature in general, writers, and Prague. It will conclude with questions from the audience.

The speakers. Included in the book is Banga's story, "Žižkovite," which was translated by Zucker. Banga is a Romani musician, journalist, presenter, and entrepreneur. His autobiography, *The Real Way Out*, tells his life story from childhood in Prague to his entry into journalism as an adult. Zucker has translated a number of Czech writers into English (Jáchym Topol, Petra Hůlová, Bianca Bellová, and others). He is also an active promoter of Czech literature in the United States. Zikmund is co-editor of the book and works for the Czech Literary Centre in Prague.

Questions? Contact gwen@cs-center.org





New Brass Plaque for the Linden Tree by Bob Kotek

The commemorative brass plaque honoring the linden tree at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, which was stolen in November 2023, has been replaced with a new brass plaque set into stone, making it harder to steal. The original plaque was attached by screws. The linden is considered the Tree of Liberty by both Czechs and Slovaks. Dave Stepan was instrumental in getting the plaque remade and, along with Dan Bednar, contracted to have it professionally installed. Bob Kotek, chair of the Building and Property Trustees Committee, completed this installation in August.

October 8, Sokol “Memorial Day” *Památný den sokolstva* by American Sokol

Each year, Sokols in the Czech Republic commemorate October 8 to remember the tragic events in the Sokol organization's history. On the night of October 7, 1941, the “Sokol Action” was launched by a decree of Reinhard Heydrich, acting Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia. The decree's orders were to arrest and subsequently deport Sokol representatives to concentration camps and to paralyze the organization's resistance activity. On that day, hundreds of Sokol members were arrested, the organization was dissolved, and its property was confiscated. Throughout the Second World War, Sokol was among the most prominent sources of resistance. Over 3,000 Sokol members were executed during the Nazi totalitarian regime and another 8,000 were imprisoned.

During 2018, the Civic Democratic Party proposed the inclusion of Sokol Memorial Day as an “Important Day” of the Czech Republic. In January of 2019, the Senate of the Czech Republic approved October 8 to be recognized as Sokol Memorial Day. President Miloš Zeman signed this legislation. At the October 22, 2019, executive board meeting of American Sokol, a motion was approved that American Sokol will observe Sokol Memorial Day. We share our roots with Czech Sokols and together we will always remember October 8 with Sokols around the world. Originally published by American Sokol, October 8, 2023. https://www.facebook.com/americansokol/posts/706687814819788/?_rd=1

Sokol Minnesota Friendly Friday Evenings

Remember: 2nd Friday of each month, 7-10 p.m.

October 11 from 7-10 p.m.

Family friendly cards and board games, fun, food, and friends.
Bring your own beverages and/or snacks to share.

Free drop-in

Fun and Games

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

Sokol Minnesota would like to welcome the following new members, accepted by the board in August.

Deborah Capouch and **Jon Rasmussen**, Bloomington, with interests in language classes; history and genealogy; the bicycle group; and other activities.

Toni Trutna, Eden Prairie, with interests in cooking classes; and history and genealogy.

Claire Press, Saint Paul, with interests in the adult dance, calisthenics, singing, and literature groups; cooking and crafting classes; films and theater; music and dances; and event organizing.

Richard Kollaja, Stillwater, with interests in the literature group; language classes; and films and theater.

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

\$100 - \$499: Tom Horak, Carol F Kuechler

TOTAL \$350

LEGACY FUND

Under \$99: (In Memory of Gene Drabek) Arlene Drabek

TOTAL \$50

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

Kung Fu: Wednesdays 6-7 p.m.

Tai Chi: Wednesdays 7-8 p.m.



CSCC Held Its Annual Program Planning Meeting

The Czech and Slovak Culture Center of Minnesota (CSCC) board held its 2024-2025 program planning meeting on September 1 at the University Club in Saint Paul.

The next CSCC program, held in cooperation with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, is Friday, October 4, 7 p.m. at C.S.P.S. Hall.

Czech author Patrik Banga will discuss his story in the newly released English version of *The Book of Prague*, a collection of ten short stories about Prague written by ten different Czech authors. The book will be available for sale. (See ad on page 6.)

Accompanying Banga is his story's translator Alex Zucker and Jan Zikmund, co-editor of this book from the Czech Literary Centre in Prague. Zikmund was at C.S.P.S. Hall on March 29 with Czech poet Petr Hruška.

The Czech Literary Centre is a nonprofit organization funded by the Czech Ministry of Culture; it is a section of the Moravian Library. It supports and promotes Czech literature both in the Czech Republic and abroad.



(L-R) M. L. Kucera, Vice President Cheryl Nelson, Andy Kozak, President Renáta Tichá, Patricia M. Bergh, Vice President Jan Knudtson, Treasurer Bea Flaming, and Gwen Willems. Missing board member: Joyce Tesarek.

Czech Citizens Living Abroad Can Finally Vote by Mail Starting in 2025

by Pavlína Tesch

After decades of advocacy and political debate, Czech citizens living abroad can celebrate a monumental change. Starting in 2025, they will be eligible to vote by mail in general and presidential elections. This long-awaited reform ensures that Czechs abroad can fully participate in shaping the political future of the Czech Republic, no matter where they live.

Chceme volit distančně (We Want to Vote Remotely)

The driving force behind this achievement is the initiative *Chceme volit distančně* (We Want to Vote Remotely), supported by a wide range of politicians and experts who have been pushing for this change for over two decades. Their perseverance has paid off, giving all Czechs, regardless of where they live, a more accessible and fair opportunity to vote.

For Czech speakers, the Facebook group #CHCEME_VOLIT_DISTANČNĚ is available for further discussions and updates on this topic. You can join the group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/497406447486305>

Virtual Debate on November 14 at 12 p.m. CST

Additionally, on November 14 at 12 p.m. CST, an online discussion titled *Virtuální debata - jak prakticky volit poštou ze zahraničí* (Virtual Debate - How to Practically Vote by Mail from Abroad) will take place in Czech. This discussion will cover all the practicalities of the postal voting process, helping Czech citizens abroad understand how to vote in the upcoming general elections in 2025. You can join the event here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeQd67cYn_i6Gx7bmh61tkHSYmQzho6F1C9ap6UBaQUPXRZg/viewform

What Has Changed?

Until now, Czechs living abroad could only vote by physically traveling to a Czech embassy or consulate. This requirement posed a significant barrier for many, especially those far from diplomatic missions. From 2025 onward, however, Czech citizens living abroad will finally have the option to vote by post, ensuring that they can exercise their voting rights without the need for long and costly travel. They will still need to register for voting at their nearest embassy or consulate in person if they have not done so previously.

This reform is a crucial step towards greater inclusivity, ensuring that all Czech citizens, regardless of where they live, have an equal opportunity to participate in elections and have their voices heard.

Kolo Sokol Bike Club

Last ride of the season, October 20



Rides are 2-3 hours long.

Meet and leave at the C.S.P.S. Hall at 10 a.m.

Info: sokolmn.org/bike

Czech and Slovak Literary Ventures

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)

2024 – Book discussions and a Film viewing

- **Saturday, October 19, 10 a.m. - noon.** Book discussion. *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka, any translation
- **Saturday, November 16, 10 a.m. - noon.** Book discussion. *Tatra: The Legacy of Hans Ledwinka* by John G. Margolius and John G. Henry
- **Saturday, December 28, 10 a.m. - noon.** Film: *Toman*

2025 – Book discussions

- **Saturday, January 18, 10 a.m. - noon.** Book discussion. *Mucha: The Triumph of Art Nouveau* by Arthur Ellridge, or other book about Mucha
- **Saturday, February 15, 10 a.m. - noon.** Book discussion. *The Glass Room* by Simon Mawer Baer
- **Saturday, March 15, 10 a.m. - noon.** Book discussion. *Still Pictures: On Photography and Memory* by Janet Malcolm
- **Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. - noon.** Book discussion. *The Cello Still Sings: A Generational Story of the Holocaust and of the Transformative Power of Music* by Janet Horvath
- **Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. - noon.** Book discussion. *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)

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.

Questions? Contact gwen@cs-center.org

Obituary

Terry E. Shima

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota lost a good friend and long-time volunteer with the sudden and unexpected passing of Terry Shima on June 7, 2024.

Terry served as a Trustee and was a cheerful volunteer for the C.S.P.S. Hall Board of Trustees (BOT)/Building and Property Trustees Committee (BPTC) for more than twenty years. He retired from the BPTC at the end of his term last year. Quiet and unassuming, Terry was a perennial volunteer for Sokol Minnesota in many other capacities as well. You may have met Terry when he was selling tickets at past Czech & Slovak Festivals. He was almost always a participant with the seasonal BOT/BPTC Clean-up Days and for many years worked to keep the C.S.P.S. Hall stocked with office supplies. Sokol Minnesota will surely miss Terry's cheerful service and his friendship going forward.

Terry Shima was of Czech ancestry, born in 1952 to Eugene Martin Shima and Mildred Pauline (Briggs) Shima. He grew up in Norwood, Minnesota. Terry graduated from the University of Minnesota and had a forty-year career in corporate research and development at Deluxe Corporation, having retired in 2019. Terry Shima and Maggie Lutz enjoyed a marriage of 41 years. He and Maggie loved to travel and shared volunteer activities with many organizations, including week-long service projects organized by the Sierra Club, such as one in support of the National Park Service at Mesa Verde National Park.

As Maggie Lutz wrote, "Terry's kindness and steadiness knew no bounds." Terry's absence will be noticed in countless places, and most assuredly felt here at Sokol Minnesota.

Slovo Publication Information and Committees

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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:

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More information at www.sokolmn.org

My Ántonia by Willa Cather. Mariner Books Classics/HarperCollins: New York, 272 pages, 1995; first published in 1918. Available at libraries and bookstores.

My Ántonia begins with an important introduction that explains the origins and structure of the book. As adult friends living in New York, the lawyer Jim Burden and writer Willa Cather are riding a train across Iowa. They reminisce about the vivacious girl Ántonia Shimerda whom they knew when they were young. Jim cannot see why Willa has not written about Ántonia. Jim and Willa agree to write down their memories. Willa doesn't follow the agreement, but uses Jim's extensive notes as the basis of *My Ántonia*. The result is a book not told in the usual narrative style, but builds the story of Ántonia and Jim that is focused, chapter by chapter, on some person or aspect of their young lives in Nebraska.

Among the memorable characters are two Russian brothers haunted by memories of an attack by wolves, Ántonia's father who deeply misses his Czech friends and music, Jim's kind and wise grandma, the sexist and violent Mr. Cutter, and town girls who work in service jobs.

Jim and Ántonia met while the ten-year-old Jim and the slightly older Ántonia were traveling by train and wagon to their new homes in the Nebraska prairie. Ántonia's family was emigrating from Bohemia and Jim was coming from Virginia to live with his grandparents after the death of his parents. In Jim's words, "I do not remember our arrival to my grandfather's farm sometime before daybreak, after a drive of nearly twenty miles with heavy work-horses. When I awoke, it was afternoon. ... A tall woman, with wrinkled brown skin and black hair, stood looking down at me. I knew that she must be my grandmother."

The Shimerdas and the Burdens lived on adjoining but vastly different homesteads. During their first year in Nebraska, the Shimerdas lived in a cave in the earth with their four children, while the Burdens were in a wooden, two-story house and had two hired men.

Jim was besotted and became good friends with Ántonia, the second oldest of the Shimerda children. Jim thought, "The little girl was pretty, but Ántonia—they accented the name thus, strongly, when they spoke to her—was still prettier. ... [Her eyes] were big and warm and full of light, like the sun shining on brown pools in the wood. Her skin was brown, too, and in her cheeks she had a glow of rich, dark color. Her brown hair was curly and wild-looking."

Ántonia was bright, opinionated, energetic, outgoing, and eager to learn more English. Jim gave her nearly daily

lessons, which she'd eagerly run across the prairie to receive. After her dear father committed suicide, Ántonia worked like a man on their farm. Jim retained admiration for those country girls. They "had grown up in the first bitter-hard times, and had got too little schooling themselves. ... The elder girls, who helped to break up the wild sod, learned so much from life, from poverty, from their mothers and grandmothers; they had all, like Ántonia, been early awakened and made observant by coming at a tender age from an old country to a new."

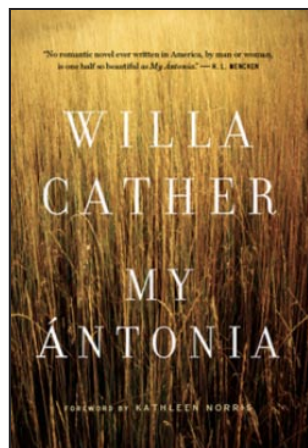
Willa Cather had a remarkable talent for description. Her portrayal of the prairie and plots of wheat and corn remind me of seeing those crops still prevalent when I grew up in rural Minnesota.

A fine example of this writing is Jim's description of Mr. Shimerda's resting place: "Years afterward, when the open-grazing days were over, and the red grass had been ploughed under and under until it had almost disappeared from the prairie; when all the fields were under fence, and the roads no longer ran about like wild things, but followed the surveyed section lines, Mr. Shimerda's grave was still there, with a sagging wire fence around it, and an unpainted wooden cross. As grandfather had predicted, Mrs. Shimerda never saw the roads going over his head. ... The grave, with its tall red grass that was never mowed, was like a little island; and at twilight, under a new moon or the clear evening star, the dusty roads used to look like soft grey rivers flowing past it. I never came upon the place without emotion, and in all that country it was the spot most dear to me. ... Never a tired driver passed the wooden cross, I am sure, without wishing well to the sleeper."

My Ántonia is considered one of Willa Cather's finest books. She was born in 1873 in Virginia. The family moved to Nebraska in 1883 when Willa was nine years old. She was well educated, graduated from the University of Nebraska in 1895, and went on to write several collections of short fiction and twelve novels. She received the Pulitzer Prize in 1923 for her World War I-based novel, *One of Ours*.

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 Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis. Find information and updates at cs-center.org or contact gwen@cs-center.org

Join Literary Ventures at 10 a.m.
on Saturday, October 19, for a discussion of
The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka.



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Czech Honorary Consul News

October
2024

As part of the 50th anniversary celebration at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a new clock tower will be dedicated on Friday, September 27. Both the Czech and the Slovak presidents are expected to attend. This clock tower is patterned after the astronomical clock, known as the *Orloj*, on City Hall in Prague's Old Town. But instead of twelve saints appearing on the hour, the NCSML twelve figurines represent the stories of immigrants from Czech lands, including a farmer, a mother-with-babe-in-arms, a meatpacker, a merchant, a musician, a nun, and even a Sokol member, plus five more. The clock works are from the SPEL Company in Prague. The nearly 4' figurines were hand carved by Andrej Haršány of Bratislava, Slovakia.



The merchant figurine is sponsored by the Honorary Consuls of the Czech Republic in the United States. As Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis along with Sharon Valasek, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Kansas City, we organized our American Honorary Consul colleagues to purchase one of the figurines. By May when we learned of the opportunity to sponsor a figurine, ten of the twelve already had sponsors. Of the two remaining, we chose the merchant. On September 6, NCSML held an *Orloj* Figurine Welcome ceremony. Neither Sharon nor I were able to attend. Attending in our place was Allison Gerber, president of the Western District of American Sokol and a National Executive Board Member of American Sokol. She described this special, one-time opportunity to see the figurines up-close and in person as "most enjoyable and informative."

In early summer I received an inquiry from the Czech Republic asking to be put in contact with a compatriot organization in Minnesota to help celebrate the Czech immigrant Jan Kubát (1815-1898), who came to New Prague in 1875 from his home village of Pušperk, Bohemia, now Czechia. When I was in Prague in June, I sought the help of Jan Kubišta, former Deputy Consul General/Chicago, who had been to and knows our New Prague. Jan quickly found online that Mr. Kubát was buried in St. Wenceslaus Cemetery in New Prague. Of my behalf, Jan talked directly to Michal Šubrt in Pilsen on the phone to learn more. Mr. Šubrt was working with Ing. Ladislav Kubát, who had a memorial column built that would be installed to honor Jan Kubát later in the summer.

In 1845 Jan Kubát, a local master carpenter born in Pušperk, built *Bolfánek*, a brick lookout tower that still stands today, from church ruins that include a pilgrimage church from the tenth century. *Bolfánek* is 145 feet high with 138 steps. It is less than half a mile from the market town of Chudenice in Klatovy District of the Plzeň Region and is about 25 miles south of Pilsen. This observation tower is protected as a cultural monument.



The memorial column is 2 meters (6½') high by 8" square and has a small roof. A painting of Jan Kubát faces toward Bolfánek about two miles north; the other side portrays the lookout tower itself and its side chapel. Many members of the Association of Friends of Czech History Klatovy were at the dedication. This organization, led by Ivan Rubás, looks forward to becoming friends with the Czech Heritage Club.

<https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolfánek>
<http://www.otisk.org/rozhledna-bolfanek>
(Use Google Translate to translate)

Upon my return to Minnesota, I contacted George Mikiska, a member of the board of the Czech Heritage Club (CHC) in New Prague and also a well-known Czech County Minnesota genealogist. His registry of Jan Kubát's descendants is 16-pages long. George gave permission for these pages to be copied and sent to Ladislav Kubát (not related to Jan), who donated the memorial column to the village of Poleň, to which the smaller village of Pušperk belongs. According to Ladislav Kubát, "Mayor Radek Lidinský of Poleň chose a beautiful place for the column, next to the chapel in Pušperk. From that place, there is a nice view of the Bolfánek lookout tower." The Czech Heritage Club in New Prague, of which Fred Simon is president, is pleased to be have this added Czech connection to one of New Prague's early immigrants. CHC is adding this information to its own history.

The headline on this poster reads: Poleň Village and Ing.* Ladislav Kubát arranges the ceremonial unveiling of the smart column to Jan Kubát, a native of Pušperk.
(*The title "Ing." corresponds to the title M.A. or M.Sc. in technical fields or economics.)

OBEC POLEŇ A ING. LADISLAV KUBÁT POŘADAJÍ:
**SLAVNOSTNÍ ODHALENÍ
PAMĚTNÍHO SLOUPU**
PUŠPERSKÉMU RODÁKOVÍ
JANU KUBÁTOVI

**7. ZÁŘÍ 2024
13:00**

U KAPLIČKY V PUŠPERKU

PROGRAM SLAVNOSTNÍHO ODHALENÍ:

- 13.00 zahájení
- privítání přítomných, proslov
- slavnostní odhalení a prohlídka sloupu
- pamětní fotografování
- oběd, opékání, čepování nápoje

Jan Kubát (*1815, †1898)
Mistr tesalářský Jan Kubát, rodák z Pušperka u Poleň v roce 1845 novogoticky dostavěl bývalou kostelní věž kostela sv. Václava do výšky 45 metrů a upravil ji na rozhlednu podle klatovské Černé věže. Rozhledna Bolfánek je dominantou Chudenicka.



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic
in Minneapolis, MN

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





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!*

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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* October 2024



Holiday Breakfast

Craft and *Koláče* Bake Sale **2024**

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

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



**Pancakes
and all the fixings**

**\$10 adult;
\$6 child under 9;
\$30 family of 4**



**No reservation
needed**

**To reserve
a craft table:
activities@sokolmn.org**

Apricot, cream cheese, poppy, prune, or raspberry *koláč* \$2 each
Prepaid *koláče* orders must be received by Saturday, November 16

Prepay: credit/debit card or PayPal at www.sokolmn.org/cc/

If prepaying your *koláče* order by check through the mail, text/call: 651-210-0401