



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

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

April 2025 *Slovo*
articles due March 1

Sokol Singers

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon

First and
Third
Tuesdays March 4, 18
April 3, 17

**Summer Language
Study in the Czech
Republic** See page 3

**Friendly Friday
Evening Social**

Friday, March 14, 7 p.m.

**Czech Puppet
Performances**

March 21 and March 22
See page 6

Blast from the Past!

Saturday, April 5,
7 p.m.–midnight

See page 8

**RENEW YOUR 2025
SOKOL MINNESOTA
MEMBERSHIP**

If you have not yet renewed,
please return the renewal form
mailed to you or use our online
membership page at
www.sokolmn.org/membership

- Pay your 2025 dues
- Update your contact information
- Share your ideas and feedback
- Update the activities where you have interest in participating or attending

Please renew your membership
as soon as possible
and continue being part of our
Sokol family in 2025!

Flavors of Slovakia Dinner
Sunday, March 9 20 25

Serving 12:30p.m.
(doors open 12n)



\$35 per person

Soup, Traditional Slovak *Bryndzové halušky*
(potato dumplings, *bryndza* cheese, and bacon),
holubky (cabbage roll), dessert, coffee.



Payment: Prepay with credit/debit card by reserving online at
www.sokolmn.org/cc/ or reserve and pay by check
Voice/text: 651-210-0401 (Pay and reserve by March 2)



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

Spring Pancake Breakfast
Craft and *Koláče* Bake Sale



Sunday, April 13 20 25
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Pancakes (all-you-can-eat),
sausage, fruit cup,
juice, and coffee.

\$10 Adult
\$6 child under 9
\$30/family of 4
Public welcome.

No reservation needed.

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

Ordering *koláče*

Place your prepaid *koláče*
order by Sunday, April 6

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

Prepay order online
by credit/debit card,
go to: www.sokolmn.org/cc/
or Voice/text: 651-210-0401
if paying by check.

Vendor information contact:
activities@sokolmn.org

**June 25-29
2025**

CHICAGO

2 0 2 5

XXV AMERICAN SOKOL SLET

**Children's Czech and Slovak
Cultural Day Camp**

June 16-20 20 25

Online registration is open
www.sokolmn.org



Prezidentčin komentář/President's Notes by Bob Kotek

It's Greetings to our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota community!

January proved to be a very busy and most rewarding month for Sokol Minnesota and for me personally as well. Involvement in the West 7th community through outreach and engagement strengthens our neighborhood as a whole and demonstrates Sokol's ongoing commitment to our neighbors.

Through the years, Sokol volunteers Doreen McKenney and Marit Kucera got to know members of St. Mark Lutheran Church at West 7th and Goodhue through garage sales, Sokol breakfasts, and other events between the two organizations. Through these activities, a mutual respect developed for the goals of each other's groups. Recent circumstances caused St. Mark to disband their congregation. The congregation voted for Holy Closure which involved selling the building and dispensing all congregational funds. Recipients were 15 organizations, all of which had a close relationship with St. Mark and most of which were located within the neighborhood. Sokol Minnesota received \$28,097, a most generous gift designated for our Legacy Fund. The check was delivered to C.S.P.S Hall on January 6 by (L-R) Nancy Redlin and Mary Miller to Bob Kotek and Marit Kucera.



I have to say, relationships are key in so many things we do in our life. This is yet another example of how working within the community and developing those relationships lead to rewards we never imagined. Six representatives from St. Mark were guests of Sokol at the January 25 *Svíčková* New Year dinner.

The *Svíčková* dinner was a huge success with 129 meals served! Thank you to all volunteers involved, from our kitchen cooks, servers, setup and take-down crews, bartenders, and Ryan Cihlar (www.ryancharlescihlar.com) our superb accordion accompanist during the meal.

Sokol Minnesota has purchased ad space in the local West 7th community newspaper (*Community Reporter*) on an ongoing basis. The ad, updated every month by our graphic artist, Doreen McKenney, publicizes current events at Sokol Minnesota. Marit Kucera, who initiated and helps to manage the ads, has now taken the additional step of working with the *Community Reporter* editor to designate the C.S.P.S. Hall as a drop point for the newspaper. We anticipate 15-20 copies of the *Community Reporter* to be available in the elevator lobby on a monthly basis. Please pick one up when you visit the Hall to keep up with our local West 7th news and events.

I think we all understand how Sokol is supported by our volunteers during our Sokol events, but volunteers who work behind the scenes day in and day out may not be as visible. I would like to recognize one such volunteer, Arlene Hamernik, who for the past 14 years has been the one to answer incoming telephone calls to Sokol Hall. Arlene would respond as appropriate and pass messages on to others for follow up. Arlene has decided to step down from this role. Arlene has additionally been involved with the Sunshine Report and various other activities. Denise Stibal has agreed to take on the important phone-answering role for Sokol.

I would also like to announce we are resurrecting a planning committee to do a deep dive into projects at the Hall. Silvia Magana is chair of the committee. Silvia is joined by Dan Bednar, Gary Novak, Dave Stepan, and Joyce Tesarek. *Nazdar!*

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2025 BOD (Board of Directors)

President
Bob Kotek

Vice President
Fred Simon

Recording Secretary
Lucy Brudnak Rose

Corresponding Secretary
Denise Stibal

Treasurer
Barbara Skrivanek

Sergeant at Arms
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Activities Director
Jean Draheim

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Sally Lieberman

Rental Committee
Marketa Pálková

Publicity Director
Tereza Treanor

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Women's and Men's
Physical Director
Jason Brozovich

Building and Property
Trustees Committee
Dave Stepan, Chair

Gaming Manager
Ed Hamernik

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

Study Czech in the Czech Republic this Summer By Sally Lieberman, Education Director

Scholarships are available for two fantastic summer language programs for ages 18+: the Czechs Abroad program in Poděbrady for people with a heritage interest in Czech language and culture; and the Summer Schools of Slavonic Studies in Prague, Brno, and Poděbrady. All levels of language instruction, from complete beginner to advanced, are offered. The scholarships are generously funded by the Czech government and are vetted (for our region) by the Czech Consulate in Chicago. To view the recording of Sokol Minnesota's info meeting on these programs, and to find links to the relevant webpages: <https://sokolmn.org/czech-language-institute-in-podebrady/>
Scholarship application deadline: March 15, 2025.

New! Summer Program in the Czech Republic for Young Leaders ages 16-22

Embark on a transformative journey through the Czech language, culture, history, and cross-cultural leadership with Czech high school and university students! Includes travel to Prague, Hradec Králové, Ostrava, and Brno. Program is hosted by the Mestenhauser Institute for International Collaboration. Program is in English. **For full information, please email education@sokolmn.org**
Application Deadline: April 30, 2025.

The Power of Words

A Discussion with Radka Denemarková

Have we learned from the twentieth century?

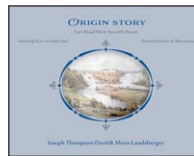
Sunday, March 30, 7 p.m. at C.S.P.S. Hall

Meet the work of the Czech writer Radka Denemarková, four-time winner of the Magnesia Litera Award, 2024 State Medal of Merit of the President of the Czech Republic (in the field of culture and arts), Austrian Franz Kafka Prize 2024 and European Tolerance Award 2024, among many others. An opportunity to delve into her thoughts about the contemporary European literary scene and the power mechanisms of modern society in connection with the anniversary of the end of World War II through a moderated discussion. Sponsored by CSCC and Sokol.

25th Annual Masopust, March 2, noon-4 p.m.

Complete with King coronation, Czech food (until 3:30), costume ball with prizes, silent auction (12:30-3:30), cash bar with Czechvar beer, Czech Bakery, and other merchants. Entertainment: George's Concertina Band and the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers. Location: Rustic Farmer/Revival on Main in downtown Montgomery.

Origin Story Goes Live on March 14 at C.S.P.S. Hall with Joe Landsberger



Origin Story: Fort Road/West Seventh Street, the Township/City of Saint Paul, the Territory/State of Minnesota; Glacial Age Forward. At the end of 2024, Joe Landsberger published 325 books;

75 were hardcover with marbled end sheets (\$150) and 250 were softcover (\$40). All proceeds, over \$12,000 and counting, benefit C.S.P.S. Hall's Legacy Fund.

Thanks to the enthusiastic demand in the West End and beyond, the editions were nearly sold out within four weeks. The book's 420 pages with 1058 images (85% vintage) are documented with 259 endnotes. Each book was inscribed "*Thank you for (contributing to and) supporting the history of immigrants and volunteers of W7!*"

The project continues with a series of talks by the author himself, who was Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota president 2006-2010. **On Friday, March 14, Joe talks about his book at the historic C.S.P.S. Hall, 7 p.m.**

A social hour and conversation follow as part of Sokol Minnesota's monthly Friendly Friday series. Additional venues and schedules will be posted at www.josfland.com

44th Minneapolis St. Paul INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL April 2-13

MSPIFF returns to The Main Cinema and other venues around the Twin Cities. As the largest annual celebration of the international cinema in the region, MSPIFF44 promises another exciting lineup of 200+ films from around the world, plus an exciting array of parties, panels, visiting filmmakers, and special guests. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota is a proud sponsor of MSPIFF44

All-access passes are on sale now.

<https://mspiff44.org/>

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota



Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership is a way to encourage and recognize outstanding participation of youth members and to foster a future generation of members and leaders for our Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota organization. Up to three Sokol Minnesota youths will receive the 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, from Louise Wessinger.

2025 YLA application opens in April 1.
More information at www.sokolmn.org

22nd Great Candlelight New Year's Dinner by Tereza Treanor and Joyce Tesarek

Sokol Minnesota hosted another very successful New Year's Dinner, produced entirely by volunteers, on Saturday, January 25. This is the second year with *Svičková na smetaně*. The previous 20 annual January dinners featured roast duck.

The preparations began early on Friday morning when Michaela Kotek started making the dough for *knedlíky* (bread dumplings), the side dish for the creamy sauce with beef that is a Czech cuisine staple. Also helping with the food preparation: Blanka Brichta, Dawn Bulera, Jana Castillion, Eva Giese, Diana Landgridge, and Petra Riedel.



Event chairs were Joyce Tesarek, Michaela Kotek, and Dawn Bulera.

Svičková na smetaně is a fancy Czech dish, prepared in Czech and Slovak kitchens only on special occasions, due to the labor-intensive preparation. More than 120 servings of the *Svičková* dinner were prepared

and the dinner was a huge success thanks to all the volunteers. The setup of the tables for a formal dinner service commenced at 3 p.m. and was fully ready by the time the guests started arriving at 4:30 p.m.



Bar-to-table bartender Roger Green.

Cash bar was manned by Sokol President Bob Kotek. The feedback we got on food was all in superlatives! Clean plates returned to the kitchen were another sign that guests really enjoyed traditional Czech-from-scratch cooking. Dessert was another Czech staple; *štafetky* are made of layers of hazelnut cake with coffee buttercream, half dipped in delicious tempered chocolate.

During the meal, our dinner guests enjoyed the lively accordion music of Ryan Cihlar.



Cheers to Ryan Cihlar, our musician.

In addition to those already listed, our other amazing volunteers who helped with the dinner, including registering, setup, greetings, serving, and cleanup: Pat Andrie, Mary Cahill, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Emma Giancarlo, Abra Gillman, Roger Green, Mia Grignon, Mary Jo Kacvinsky, Luboš Mareš, Linda Maxey, Doreen McKenney, Markéta Pálková, Barbara Pavelka, Rich Smith, Darnell Stepan, Dave Stepan, and Tereza Treanor.



Guests from St. Mark. Front: Mary Miller, Linda Robinson, Ardelle Volkman. Back: Sokol President Bob Kotek with Jan Bloom, Barb Benson, and Karen Larson.

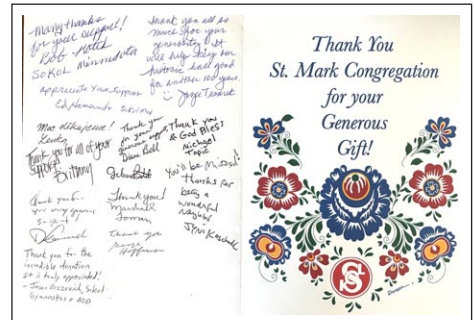
Special thanks go to our six honored guests at our New Year's dinner from the St. Mark Lutheran Church congregation who generously donated the extraordinary gift of \$28,097 to our Legacy Fund.

Led by Mary Miller, our St. Mark guests included Jan Bloom, Barb Benson, Karen Larson, Linda Robinson, and Ardelle Volkman.

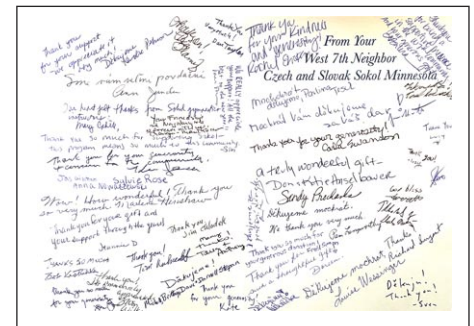


Mary grew up in the neighborhood in a Slovak-speaking household. She along with Karen and Linda were life-long members of St. Mark. Mary recounted, and thanked once again, the support that Sokol Minnesota gave to the St. Mark congregation after an arson fire on December 12, 2014. Sokol Minnesota hosted a Saint Paul West End neighborhood-wide fundraiser, including a silent auction, musical acts, kids' games, and great food donated by local restaurants, on January 17, 2015; it was attended by a capacity-plus crowd of West End and West 7th friends and neighbors.

President Bob Kotek received an enlarged version of the check from St. Mark's Mary Miller.



Sokol members signed the Thank You card (designed by Doreen McKenney).



March 9 is our annual Flavors of Slovakia Dinner at C.S.P.S. Hall.

This is the second year with the menu that includes *halušky* with traditional *Bryndza* cheese, *holubky* (cabbage roll), and a typical dessert. See you there! \$35 per person. <https://sokolmn.org/all-events/>

January 2025 Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board Highlights

by **Lucy Brudnak Rose**,
Recording Secretary

On January 12, 2025, the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors' meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. by Bob Kotek, our new president, with several board members attending in person at the C.S.P.S. Hall and others attending virtually: Bob Kotek, Fred Simon, Steve Ernest, Silvia Magana, Markéta Pálková, Dave Stepan, Tereza Treanor, Joyce Tesarek, Ed Hamernik, Lucy Rose, Sally Lieberman, and Jean Draheim. The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the November 2024 BOD and the 2024 Annual Membership meetings.

Bob asked board members to describe their committee's goals for 2025. Dave shared that the Building and Property, and Trustee Committee's priorities in the coming year will include replacing windows throughout the Hall as necessary, developing long-range plans for future boiler and elevator replacements, and implementing a floor maintenance

schedule for the main room at the Hall. Markéta discussed plans for improved coordination between the Rental and Finance Committees in 2025, as well as plans for an upcoming dance party event in early April.

Steve's goal for the Membership Committee is to improve communication with our Sokol members to ensure that our organization is meeting their needs and to increase member participation by developing additional benefits of Sokol membership. As chair of the Finance Committee, Joyce echoed Markéta's goal of improved communication between the Finance and Rental Committees. Also Joyce solicited ideas from board members for specific large projects that could be focal points of fundraising efforts over the coming year.

Tereza described the Publicity Committee's plans to increase the visibility of Sokol Minnesota throughout the community by advertising in local publications (such

as *My Villager*) and across various social media platforms.

Bob's goals include a planning committee that would set the direction for our organization over the coming year. This would allow us to better allocate awarded grants and donations, such as the \$28,097 gift we received from St. Mark's Lutheran Church following the disbanding of their congregation in 2024.

Several of the committee chairs also submitted their monthly reports to the board.

From the Education Committee, Sally shared that low enrollment for the winter Beginning Slovak class meant that the class would ultimately be canceled. She also said that Joe Landsberger will give a talk about his book on the history of the West Seventh area at the Hall in March.

The Finance Committee report included a summary of cash accounts. Six new members were approved. Motions from the Gaming Committee to approve budgets, expenditures, and funds transfers were also approved.

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 **TOTAL: \$100**
\$100-\$499: Kenneth Mowll.

LEGACY FUND **TOTAL: \$28,347**
Under \$99: Richard Sargent.
\$100-\$499: M. L. Kucera (in honor the Building and Property Trustees Committee), **Kenneth Mowll.**
\$28,097: St. Mark Lutheran Congregation (see pages 2 and 4).

IN-KIND DONATIONS

For the Sokol Minnesota Youth Link: **Judy Metcalf**. For Culture Camp: **MaryJo Marsh**. For Sokol: **Phyllis Vosepka** (old doll in *kroje*).

CORRECTION: the donation attributed to CVS Health Foundation in the February issue should have stated: **Micheala Giancarlo Kotek** (CVS Health Foundation Volunteer Challenge Grant in recognition of her volunteering).

CORRECTION: \$1,000- \$9,999: Sue and Dave Martin (not: Sue and Steve, Dave Martin).

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

Sokol Minnesota welcomes the following individuals and couples who have joined us as members for 2025.

NEW MEMBERS: • **Tereza Treanor**, Rosemount, our new Sokol Publicity Director, with interest in event help, cooking classes, publicity, and marketing. • **Frank and Kathryn Rubino**, Wausau, Wisconsin, with interest in youth culture camp, history and genealogy. • **Ken Kadlec**, Hutchinson.

FAMILIES OF CURRENT MEMBERS: • **Holle Brian**, Taylors Falls, with interest in language classes, music and dances, history and genealogy, event help. • **Leah Muyres**, Blaine, with interest in event help, cooking and crafting classes. • **Brian and Diana Mazurova Langridge**, Savage, with interest in the adult dance group, cooking classes, music and dances, and event help.

YOUTH GYMNASTICS FAMILIES: • **Siri Schroeder**, **Anna Swanberg**, and **Elisha Jacobsen**, all of St Paul.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!
<https://sokolmn.org/membership/>

JOIN THE NEW MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Current Sokol members are invited to join the membership committee.

We will review how members join and renew, how we communicate about and participate in Sokol activities and opportunities, and how we recognize contributions and achievements.

Frequency and format of meetings (in-person/online/hybrid) will be decided as the committee forms in the coming weeks.

If you have questions or if you are interested in joining the committee, please contact steve.ernest@sokolmn.org

Preserving and Promoting Cultural Heritage through Puppetry

By Jan Knudtson and Renáta Tichá

Nearly ten years ago, UNESCO put Czech and Slovak puppetry on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Puppets and the elements of the puppet theater in the Czech and Slovak lands probably appeared as long ago as ancient times, primarily in cult rituals, religious ceremonies, and folk customs. Puppetry



has evolved over the years and is still relevant today as evidenced by the number of museums and theater performances dedicated to puppets in these two Central European countries. Puppetry preserved the language and promoted the culture, and that is why it is still relevant today.

During the 19th century when these nations were part of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, German was the official language of communication and entertainment, especially in the cities. Puppet shows were the only form of theater performed in villages and the only shows performed in the Czech and Slovak languages. Puppeteers were therefore rightly considered heroes of the revival of the Czech and Slovak languages and identity. Puppetry performances in Czech and Slovak encouraged the use of the Czech and Slovak languages and therefore were instrumental in preserving them.

Two popular puppet characters created by Josef Skupa during the First Republic (1918-1938) were *Spejbl* (created in 1920) and *Hurvínek* (created in 1926). *Spejbl* is the father and *Hurvínek* is the son. Per a story on Radio Prague International (2010), Denisa Kirschnerová, the theater's art and repertory director at that time, described the puppets, "They represent different views of the world. So there is a certain conflict between them, it's the adult man and the small child." Though the comedy is aimed at children, there are many inside jokes that are meant for adults. The topics of the performances evolved with the history of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The puppets had their own museum,

established in 1930 in Pilsen; it also was the first professional puppet theater established in Czechoslovakia. It was relocated to Prague in 1945. Visit them online at spejbl-hurvinek.cz/ (English version available). Programs are targeted at children aged one to three, children aged four and above, and adults. The puppet theater performances are still relevant and very well attended today.

With funds from the Consulate of the Czech Republic in Chicago, the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota (CSCC) is bringing puppetry to life by including two performances in its 2025 programming in March. The two performances by Marie Černíková (Bio Masha) on March 21 and 22 will be held at the C.S.P.S. Hall in Saint Paul. Co-sponsors are Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and the Honorary Consulate for the Czech Republic/Minneapolis. The English performance on Friday evening is for adults; the second performance for children on Saturday at noon is bilingual (Czech and English).

CSCC also promoted Czech and Slovak puppetry at the Urban Expedition on February 23 at the Landmark Center, downtown Saint Paul, which featured Czech and Slovak culture through art, dance, music, and food. kstp.com/special-coverage/minnesota-live/urban-expedition/

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

March 22, 2025
Saturday,
March 22, 2025
12:00 PM

CONTACT @
INFO@CS-CENTER.ORG
651-507-9621

CZECH AND SLOVAK CULTURAL CENTER OF MINNESOTA
WWW.CS-CENTER.ORG

This event is free due to a grant from the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago

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

March 21, 2025
Friday,
March 21, 2025
7:00 PM

CONTACT @
INFO@CS-CENTER.ORG
651-507-9621

CZECH AND SLOVAK CULTURAL CENTER OF MINNESOTA
WWW.CS-CENTER.ORG

This event is free due to a grant from the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago

SLOVO PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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 (uncropped) 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, M. L. Kucera, Kelly Rynda, and Joyce Tesarek.

Mailing: Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek.

Mailing/Email lists: Penny and Tom Tesarek.

Minnesota ad designer: Doreen McKenney (1, 3, 7, 8).

Production layout: Mary Kucera.

February issue contributors:

Steve Ernest, Jean Keogh, Bob Kotek, Jan Knudtson, M. L. Kucera, Joe Landsberger, Sally Lieberman, Lucy B. Rose, Bonnie Simon, Joyce Tesarek, Renáta Tichá, and Tereza Treanor.

February issue photographs, ads, or

illustrations: Jason Brozovich, Martina Gurgel, M. L. Kucera, Joe Landsberger, Doreen McKenney, Katka Svensson, Joyce Tesarek, and Renáta Tichá.

More information at www.sokolmn.org

Czech Honorary Consul News

March 2025

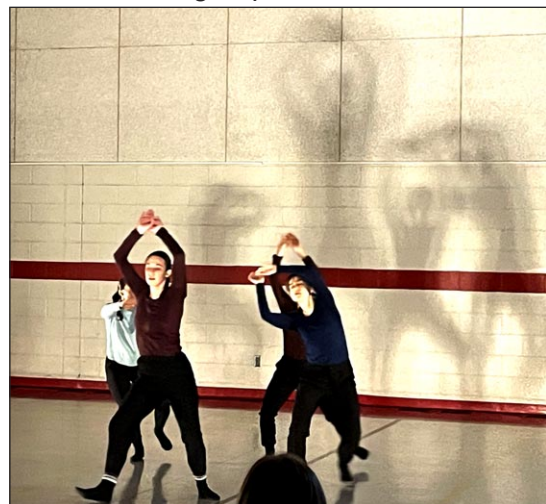
Carpatho-Rusyns celebrated their Annual Duchnovich Day Celebration on February 1 at the St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Parish Center in Northeast Minneapolis. Alexander Vasilyevich Duchnovich (1803-1865), writer, educator, and Greek Catholic priest, is honored today as the Ruthenian national revivalist. This ethnic group has never had its own country, but live in what today are Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, and Romania. In the late nineteenth century, over 250,000 came to the United States, with some 1,200 settling in Minnesota.

<https://rusinmn.org/about-carpatho-rusyns/>

Because so many came from what is now Slovakia, we here in Minnesota consider Carpatho-Rusyns to be part of our greater Czech and Slovak community.



Entertainment was provided by дома/Doma dance theatre, founded by Alexandra Bodnarchuk, choreographer and performer. Dancing to traditional Rusyn songs, Alexandra continues, as she says, "the ongoing search for the elusive feeling of home" while blazing "a trail for Slavic representation in contemporary dance." The dancers and their shadows portrayed powerful emotions and energy.



My patent (an official document granting a right or privilege) as Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis has been extended for a third term of five years. I am honored to be the Honorary Consul for Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, and South Dakota. I especially thank Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota for the office space at C.S.P.S. Hall.

Going south for the winter? The Czech Center Museum Houston (4920 San Jacinto Street, Houston, Texas 77004) has *Forgotten Gateway: Coming to America Through Galveston Island* on exhibit from February 6 to April 28. From 1845 to 1924, the Port of Galveston was a major gateway for American immigration. This exhibition is the first of its kind to explore Galveston's legacy as a port of entry on a national scale. It brings to light the little-known, yet rich, era of Galveston's history and its importance to the growth of Texas and the American Midwest. Galveston attracted a diverse group of people from Europe, Mexico, South and Central America, and also Asia. The exhibition highlights enduring themes in the history of immigration including the dangers of the journey, making a life in a new land, navigating bureaucracy, and confronting discrimination. <https://www.czechcenter.org/calendar>



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/
Minneapolis

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



36^{th annual}
**CZECH & SLOVAK
FESTIVAL**
Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, September 28 **2025**
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Save the date!

**36th Annual Czech & Slovak Festival
Sunday, September 28, 2025**

**Become a volunteer
or have ideas for the festival
contact: festival@sokolmn.org**



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 138th year in 2025. Contact Joyce Tesarek to discuss your tax-deductible donation: 612-232-2993 or email: finance@sokolmn.org *Thank you!*

Name: _____

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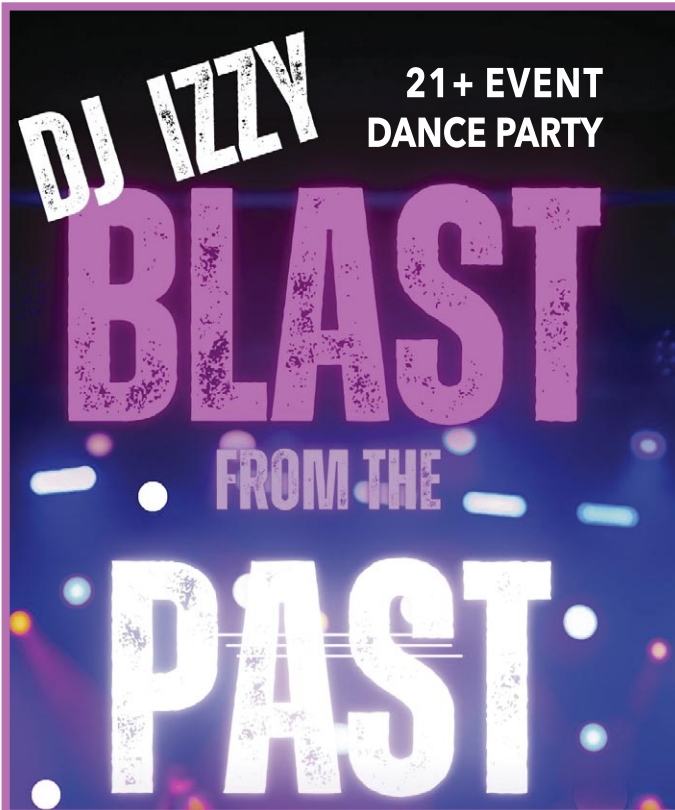
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For status of events scheduled for the C.S.P.S. Hall, check our calendar at sokolmn.org/at-our-hall/hall-calendar/

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