



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 2025 Slovo articles due May 1

Sokol Singers

Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon

First and Third Tuesdays
May 6, 20
June 3, 17

Friendly Friday

Evening Social

Friday, May 9, 7 p.m.

Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp

June 16-20

See page 8

95th Sokol Camp Booya Picnic

Sunday, August 10

See page 4

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!

Write *Legacy Fund* in the check's memo line.

Mail to **C.S.P.S. Hall Legacy Fund.**
Attn: Treasurer

Or donate online:
www.sokolmn.org

Spring
CELEBRATION

Families and Friends Celebrate with our Sokol Youths!

Saturday, May 3, 2025
10:30 a.m.

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

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's
Taneční Mládež a Taneční Teens
Dance Performance
and
Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities
Student Recognition




"The Accidental Hero"

Multi-media one-man performance
by Actor Patrick Dewane



Sunday, May 18, 2025
2 p.m. (doors open 1p.m.)

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

Widely-acclaimed performance

"The Accidental Hero" is a jaw-dropping true story about Czech freedom at the end of World War II.

Patrick Dewane's grandfather, U.S. Army Colonel Matt Konop, as a unit commander, liberated the remote border villages his grandparents had left for America decades earlier.

Pre-order your tickets online

www.sokolmn.org/cc

Limited seating

Reserved: \$20 or General \$15

Prepay by May 10

At the door \$15

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota



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 grade 11 and 12, 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. More information and forms go to : www.sokolmn.org

Prezidentův komentář / President's Notes by Bob Kotek

Happy May Day! Another day of celebration for Czechs and Slovaks! Our friends in Montgomery host their annual May Day celebration on Sunday, May 4, from noon until 5 p.m. Please join us for a fun-filled afternoon event!



With my friends, I enjoyed the May Day celebration, May 1, 2017, in Kolence, Czech Republic.

Jacobson, Lloyd Krocak, Silvia Magana, Gary Novak, Rick Palma, John Topic, Bryan Wyberg, and Gary Zweber. *Nazdar!*

The Flavors of Slovakia dinner on March 9 was a great success with delicious cuisine provided by our lead chefs, Dawn Bulera and Michaela Giancarlo Kotek. Thank you also to the many volunteers who helped in the preparation, setup, serving, and cleanup. Ryan Cihlar provided musical accompaniment during the dinner.

The Building and Trustees Committee (BPTC) was busy during the month of March with a long-planned installation of four new windows, plus a door was added to provide access for the HVAC systems on the roof. Years of planning, bids, and finally funding were required to accomplish these upgrades to the C.S.P.S. Hall.

I am happy to report that 70% of the project funding came by way of a STAR grant from the city of Saint Paul. Many thanks to Budget and Finance Committee Director Joyce Tesarek for guiding us through the grant application process and subsequent meetings with the city. Two additional large windows on the Western Avenue side of the building will be replaced in June as part of this project.

I would also like to recognize all the volunteer members of the BPTC, led by Dave Stepan, who work to maintain our wonderful C.S.P.S. Hall: Dan Bednar, Dennis Cahill, John Gerlach, Jake

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

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

Past issues of *Slovo* and
Hall Calendar of Events:
www.sokolmn.org

2025 SOKOL BIKE RIDES START SUNDAY, MAY 18

Ride with us monthly, May through October,
on the third Sunday of the month.

(May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19)



Meet at the Sokol C.S.P.S. Hall at 10a.m.
Bike the trails along the river for 2-3 hours.
Bring a friend – all are welcome!

For more information, e-mail: steve.ernest@sokolmn.org

Wanted: Czech Language Teacher

For Evening/
Adult Classes

September 2025 to
May 2026

In Person or Online

Commitment:
One 90-minute
class per week

This is a paid position!

For more info, email
education@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

Annual Flavors of Slovak Dinner by Dawn Bulera

March 9 was the annual Flavors of Slovak Dinner at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. Between the dinner and the dessert, Sokol Minnesota President Bob Kotek greeted the guests and thanked the many volunteers. Ryan Cihlar provided musical accompaniment on his accordion during the delicious meal. Doreen McKenney had the Sokol Gift shop open.

As this is my first-ever article for *Slovo*, I am excited to give you the “juicy details.” The menu was traditional to Slovakia, a full meal with soup, entrée, and dessert. The soup, *kapustnica*, with main ingredients of sauerkraut, mushroom, and sausage, was served with freshly baked *kmínový chlieb*, rye bread to dip in the soup. Michaela Giancarlo Kotek, Sokol member and my co-chef, baked the bread.

The main course, *Bryndzové halušky*, has a Slovak specialty sheep’s cheese mixed into potato dumplings and topped with chunks of bacon and fresh green onions. I drove to Chicago to pick up 20 pounds of *Bryndza* cheese freshly made for us. A pork and rice cabbage roll, *holubky*, topped with tomato sauce was served alongside the *Bryndzové halušky*. Also freshly baked by Michaela, the



dessert, *věneček*, was filled with sweet cream and vanilla pudding. Along with coffee, *věneček* completed the dinner as the fantastic finale.

No Sokol dinner event could run smoothly without the hard work and dedication of volunteers, who were organized for this event by Joyce Tesarek. Creating all the delicious food in the kitchen: Dawn Bulera, Michaela Giancarlo Kotek, Lucy Rose, Joseph, and Yazmine. Setting up the tables, chairs, and equipment: James Bradford, Mary Cahill, Luboš Mareš, and Joyce Tesarek,

The day-of kitchen volunteers: Dawn Bulera, Mary Cahill, Loboš Mareš, Markéta Pálková, Michaela Giancarlo Kotek, and Yazmine,

Ticket reservations, sales, and seating charts: Chuck Draheim and Jean Draheim. Meal service: Pat Andrie, James Bradford, Denise Stibal, Tereza Treanor, Michaela Makarianova-Wentz, Gary Zweber, Emma, Joseph, Sylvie, Victoria, and Yazmine. Bar and beverages: Roger Green, Bob Kotek, and Fred Simon.

Afterwards, we all worked together to clean up the Hall. We sincerely hope you enjoyed this dinner. Next year, please bring even more friends! Thank you!

The Power of Words by Renáta Tichá

We had the wonderful opportunity to host Radka Denemarková, a prominent Czech/European/world author, on March 30 at the C.S.P.S. Hall, sponsored by the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota (CSCC), Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, and the Czech Honorary Consulate/Minneapolis.

Ms. Denemarková made Saint Paul her stop between her talks in Toronto and Chicago, for which we are very grateful. Her books, which include *Money from Hitler*, *Chocolate Blood*, *Hours of Lead*, and many others, have been translated into 25 languages.

She opened by reading from her book *Money from Hitler (Peníze of Hitlera)* first in Czech and then in English.

From that point, the discussion evolved to the complexity of history that cannot be reduced to black and

white views and the imperative of applying such interpretation of history to our current times.

Ms. Denemarková touched on the themes of her book *Chocolate Blood (Čokoládová krev)* that include intertwined life threads of Božena Němcová, George Sand, and John Rockefeller, developing a discussion about the role of Božena Němcová in her penmanship, Czech and European literature, and literature worldwide. Radka emphasized that she is not a woman writer, but a writer, a career and life path she chose when she finally accepted that “talent found her.”

The author alluded to her book *Hours of Lead (Hodiny z olova)* that was inspired by her work in China, diving under the surface of Chinese society. She observed that China represents an

intersection of what is worst about socialism and also about capitalism.

She said: “I do not write to give you a dessert after your meal. I write to give you a fish bone in your throat.”

Ms. Denmarková's role in the Czech, European, and world literature and also social responsibility speaks to many of us through her sensitive and precise language, her clear views, and courage to share them. Thank you for what you do.



Donations Needed for C&S Festival Silent Auction by Denise Stibal, Silent Auction Chair

Please start thinking about items to donate to the silent auction as part of the Czech & Slovak Festival on September 28. The suggested minimum value is \$15. Last year we raised over \$1,000. Plans are to make this year’s auction another success! Items to consider: gift cards from a business (local or otherwise); a gift card for services such as baking, handmade goods, personal services (cleaning, organizing, dance, or music lessons); theater or event tickets.

Anything that you can contribute is appreciated! Thank you to all who contributed last year.

Further information to follow on drop-off dates as we get closer to the Festival.

How Puppets Flew With Me Across the Ocean by *BIOMASHA* (Marie Černíková)

Thanks to a grant from the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Chicago and to the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota (CSCC), I was able to perform two puppet shows at the C.S.P.S. Hall (*Sokolovna*) in Saint Paul on March 20 and 21.

My puppet show for adults was a thriller about education, shaping people to fit in and to be obedient. It was also about control and anxiety. The production is based on a novel by Czech novelist Ladislav Fuks (1923-1994). One of the participants said, "It reminds



me of Kafka." Touché. "Or contemporary," said another viewer. For the reader who missed the performance, I should add that I was also inspired by Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*.

The puppet performance for children was a comedy. The plot was based on a tabloid scandal in

which a clever actress threatens a high-profile man she was dating. The reader may be familiar with the Sherlock Holmes story "Scandal in Bohemia." The funny thing is that one of the characters is a Czech king and he doesn't resemble any real one. In the production I did,



instead of Sherlock, there were two best friends, Arthur and Conan. Both have a common wire coming out of the puppet's head. They're connected; they're like cherries. They can share thoughts. That helps, because each alone is not the brightest. Children in the audience advised them and also helped prepare the production, choose props, and arrange the boudoir of the famous beauty.

A great experience for me was a visit to the Slavic Festival later on April 21 in New Prague. I danced as many polka dances in America as I had ever danced before in the Czech Republic.

I also attended a rehearsal of the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers the following Monday and enjoyed the intricate choreography. It was a moving experience because the dancers, all from



different professions and ages, respected the teacher and asked her about the details of the steps and turns. For me, who only knows America from movies and novels, this was an American celebration and I especially liked it in the old C.S.P.S. Hall with its massive tables, photos of the founding members, and a nearly century-old stage curtain with the panorama of Prague.



Sokol Camp Booya Picnic on August 10

by Kari and Scott Muyres, Booya Picnic Co-chairpersons

It is that time of the year, when we begin planning for another highly-anticipated Sokol event! Come one, come all to fraternize while supporting our summer Sokol "home" for our members at Sokol Camp in Pine City.

The Booya Picnic is the main fundraiser to raise funds used for the maintenance and upkeep of our beloved Camp. Built in 1926 for gymnastics training and summer recreation, the Camp has undergone many structural improvements over the last two years. Be sure to enjoy this Sokol treasure whether for a day trip or a weekend getaway. It is open to all Sokol members.

To help fund these improvements for the Camp's longevity, please consider a donation and/or being a part of this 95-year tradition as a food preparer, station volunteer, setup and cleanup crew member, or patron!

95th Annual Booya Picnic on Sunday, August 10

Noon until 4 p.m. Grounds open until 5 p.m.

Booya, *jitrnice*, *koláče*, and *pivo* served.

Minnesota Sokol Camp,

19201 Woodland Acres South, Pine City, Minnesota 55063

Call or text Kari/Scott Muyres at 763-226-0313
for information or to sign-up to volunteer!

7TH Annual May Day *První máj* Pole Raising and Traditional Ribbon Dances Sunday, May 4, noon-5 p.m. Heritage Park, Montgomery

Entertainment: St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, Sokol Minnesota Children and Teen Dancers, and Czech Area Concertina Club.

For kids: face painting, crafts, sidewalk chalk, and wing painting.

Czech foods brought to you by Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota Pageant, Veseli Area Lions, and May Day Committee. Also freshly-baked Czech delicacies.

Plus Czech merchandise and genealogy.

Limited seating,
please bring your own chairs.

See you there!

Well-Attended Friendly Friday Had Neighborhood History Talk

by Sally Lieberman

On March 14, Friendly Friday at the C.S.P.S. Hall kicked off with a presentation by Joe Landsberger on his recent book, *Origin Story: Fort Road/West 7th Street, Township/City of Saint Paul, Territory/State of Minnesota*. Joe treated the audience to slides of some of the remarkable historic photos and images from his book as he told the story of the area from prehistoric times to the present day.

Approximately 50 people attended, including neighborhood residents and business owners, people with ancestral ties to the area, and Sokol members. Joe concluded with a tribute to the West End/West 7th community members who have worked for over half a century to successfully save many historic aspects of the neighborhood, including Maxine McCormick, who attended, and the late Betty Moran. Joe also expressed gratitude to Joan Sedlacek, Sokol member, also in attendance, for her help to edit the 400-plus-page manuscript.

Audience members enjoyed the opportunity to hear about this history of West 7th at our beloved Hall. More than half the audience stayed afterwards to converse, socialize, and enjoy Friendly Friday refreshments.

Sokol Minnesota thanks Joe Landsberger (Sokol Minnesota president, 2010-2014), along with volunteers Dawn Bulera, Steve Ernest, Jay Lieberman, Luboš Mareš, Markéta Pálková, and John Topic.

Joe repeats this presentation at the C.S.P.S. Hall at 12:30 p.m, Thursday, June 5, as part of the University of Minnesota's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's (OLLI) lecture series.

Montgomery Masopust 2025

by Jean Keogh

The 25th annual *Masopust*, the Czech Mardi Gras, was March 2 at the Revival on Main in Montgomery.

A highlight was the crowning of the 2025-2026 Masopust King, Isaak Worm, a junior at Tri-City United High School, Montgomery. The Montgomery Lions presented a \$500 scholarship to the outgoing king, Blake Herman.

Entertainment included the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, who invited the audience to participate. George's Concertina Band provided old-time Czech music with Czech vocals. Costume winners were a small girl in a butterfly outfit and an adult bear on a leash.

Royalty from Miss Czech-Slovak Minnesota, Montgomery Kolacky Days, Lonsdale Community Days, Le Center St. Patrick's Day, and Jordan Heimatfest joined in the silver celebration.

Featured staples to satisfy any hungry palate were *vomacka*, *zelnicky*, dumplings, sauerkraut, and *halušky*. Several vendors sold Czech merchandise and, of course, Mardi Gras items. The annual silent auction included *kolacky*, books, NAPA supplies, and several gift baskets. Proceeds from the silent auction fund future celebrations.

In Memory: Arlene Hamernik

Beloved Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota member Arlene Hamernik passed away on March 17, 2025. Arlene had been a very active Unit member with a very interesting background. She was a graduate of North Dakota State University and used her home economics education degree to make a difference in the lives of others. Arlene was the first demonstrator of microwave cooking in the United States for Litton, developed microwave cooking lesson plans, and sold over 26,000 copies of her cookbook, *101 Microwave Favorites Plus 4*. She worked in customer service at the nationally renowned companies Pillsbury and General Mills.

Arlene put her customer service skills into all she did for Sokol Minnesota for many years: answering, responding to, and routing phone calls to Sokol Minnesota; taking event reservations; serving as Sunshine Committee Chair, sending cards to members on special occasions, get well cards, and floral arrangements for funerals; serving as recording secretary; and supporting a myriad of other activities that made our Sokol community members feel acknowledged and special.

Arlene is survived by her husband, Sokol Minnesota Board Member and Gaming Manager Ed Hamernik, a son, daughter, and their families. The funeral was held April 4, at Saint Philip's Lutheran Church, Fridley, Minnesota.

Sokol Minnesota will miss Arlene's warmth, kindness, and the superior professionalism she shared with us. www.millerfuneralfridley.com/obituaries/arlene-hedhal-hamernik

MEMBER NEWS

Sokol Minnesota member **Abra Gillman** and her son **Jas**, Sokol Minnesota gymnast and gymnast instructor, met a Czech robotics team from Prague at the Minnesota 10,000 Lakes Regional 2025 Robotics High School Competition held at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds from March 26 to 29.

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes a New Member

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Board of Directors approved one new member in March. **Don Zatroch** of New Brighton is joining Sokol Minnesota with interests in language classes, films and theater, and helping with events.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!
<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 **TOTAL: \$180**

Under \$99: Anonymous, Kate Simmons

\$100-\$499: Mary Conway (Sokol Gymnastics)

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Nina Potter (various books for the library)

Jan Knutson (items for Gift Shop and SMYL)

ON BOOKS! An Evocative Look at Czech Immigrants in Mid-1900's New York by Gwen Willems, Ph.D.

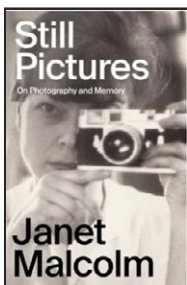
Still Pictures: On Photography and Memory by Janet Malcolm. Farrar, Straus and Giroux: New York, 176 pages, 2023.

The last book by Czech-American Janet Malcolm, *Still Pictures: On Photography and Memory*, was published in 2023, two years after her death. It is a series of 26 essays focused on 30 black and white photos, mostly of family and acquaintances. Together they form a memoir that showcases Malcolm's astute observations and strong personal opinions.

My favorite photo is of her and her parents looking out a train window as her family escaped Czechoslovakia in July 1939, when Janet was almost five years old and her sister, Marie, was two-and-a-half years old. Although not rich, her father was a doctor and her mother an attorney, which meant they had enough money and wherewithal to escape on one of the last civilian ships to leave Europe for America before the start of the Second World War.

Malcolm wrote, "We were among the small number of Jews who escaped the fate of the rest by sheer dumb luck, as a few random insects escape a poison spray. The Nazi bureaucracy that granted us our exit visas in return for bribes (the family story has it that we bought an SS man a racehorse) stipulated—to extract more money from us—that we travel first class on the liner."

Malcolm, who wrote for *The New Yorker* for 58 years, was considered a master of modern journalism. As her colleague and



friend Ian Frazier wrote in the book's introduction, "Janet Malcolm wrote nonfiction like no one else, won a wide and devoted readership, knew the stark difference between delight and whatever isn't delight, and made some people angry with the straightforwardness and occasional asperity of her work."

She was an excellent writer who could convey a great deal in a short essay. In this book she described her New York childhood, living in a tenement on East 72nd Street, going to school, getting away for vacations, and falling in love, while also giving us insight into their local Jewish Czech-American community. Running throughout is her awareness of her own presence in the transformative act of writing.

Malcolm's education was at the High School of Music and Art and the University of Michigan. You can read more of Malcolm's works on fascinating topics in her other eight nonfiction books, four essay collections, and one photography book.

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. Information and updates: cs-center.org or contact gwen@cs-center.org

Join Literary Ventures at 10 a.m., Saturday, May 17, to discuss *Carving His Own Destiny: The Story of Albin Polasek* by Ruth Sherwood.

March 2025 Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board Highlights by Lucy Rose

The March 20, 2025, Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m., by Vice President Fred Simon, with meeting participants attending virtually. Board members: Jason Brozovich, Jean Draheim, Steve Ernest, Ed Hamernik, Don Hasselbauer, Sally Lieberman, Silvia Magana, Markéta Pálková, Lucy Rose, Fred Simon, Barbara Skrivanek, Dave Stepan, Denise Stibal, Tereza Treanor, and Sokol Minnesota member: Marit Kucera.

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 2025 meeting. Sally Lieberman (Education), reported 50 people attended Joe Landsberger's well-received book talk during the March 14 Friendly Friday gathering. Czech guitarist Vladislav Bláha will perform for the April 11 Friendly Friday gathering. The Board discussed the 44th Minneapolis Saint Paul International Film Festival, which includes three Czech and Slovak films. As in previous years, Sokol Minnesota will be a financial sponsor.

Jason Brozovich (Board of Instructors) reported that gymnastics classes for the spring session concludes on April 28, with an end-of-year exhibition scheduled for May 6. Two boys and five

girls from the Sokol Minnesota team will participate in the Western District gymnastics competitions on April 5 in Crete, Nebraska.

Dave Stepan (Buildings and Property Trustees Committee) detailed the status of various projects around the C.S.P.S. Hall, including the recent installation of two new windows, plus five additional new windows should be finalized by April.

Markéta Pálková provided an update on efforts by the Rental Committee to clarify Sokol Minnesota's rental insurance coverage and also to revise the rental documents, including having them reviewed by an attorney, with the goal to make them available soon for future renters of the C.S.P.S. Hall.

Jean Draheim (Activities) reported that the posters for the Hubal stage backdrops have brought in \$95 in donations so far. She asked for suggestions from Board Members regarding potential opportunities for grants to support much needed restorations of the Hubal stage backdrops at the Hall.

Tereza Treanor provided an update from the Publicity Committee. She is putting information on Facebook and Instagram

as much as possible and has been in contact with influencers on Instagram to publicize our Czech & Slovak Festival. Tereza plans to go on the *10,000 Adventures* podcast later this year to publicize the Festival. She also plans to contact the Minnesota Star Tribune and Twin Cities Insider about placing ads for our Festival.

Markéta Pálková told about the meeting of several Sokol Minnesota members who routinely use the kitchen space at the Hall to discuss kitchen upgrades. In particular, the dishwasher is in the process of failing; she wanted to inform the Board that it will need to be repaired or replaced relatively soon.

Board members extended their condolences to Ed Hamernik whose wife Arlene, a long-time Sokol volunteer, passed away the previous week.

The Finance Committee report from Barbara Skrivanek included a summary of cash accounts. The monthly budgets presented by Gaming Chair Ed Hamernik were approved.

One new member presented to the board by Steve Ernest (Membership) was approved to join Sokol Minnesota. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Czech Honorary Consul News

May 2025

It's springtime and the **mail box for the Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic** has new lettering, as does the mailbox for Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota. The fresh new look is thanks to Sokol President Bob Kotek and Misa Giancarlo-Kotek.



North America's only astronomical clock awoke from its winter slumber at noon on March 20 at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The 12 carved-wood figurines depict the stories of Czech and Slovak immigrants as they rotate for spectators to view as music from two of the most famous Czech composers Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák plays. The *orloj* was dedicated last September. Czech Honorary Consuls in the United States sponsored the Merchant figurine. Slovak Honorary Consuls sponsored the Coal Miner figurine.



The Minnesota Consular Corps held its annual meeting on March 24 at the Minneapolis Saint Paul Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) Conference Center. As part of the nearly three-hour orientation and behind-the-scenes bus tour of the MSP airfield, some of the most fascinating information involved the award-winning snow removal and de-icing operation of runways and aircrafts. It takes less than 20 minutes for over 20 pieces of equipment (plows, broom machines, de-icers) working in close synchronization to clear two miles of runway at a time. MSP is the 15th largest commercial airport in the United States, with over 37 million passengers in 2024. 40% are on connecting flights and never leave the airport. MSP is acclaimed for its Airport Foundation (since 1982), with over 550 volunteer "ambassadors" to assist passengers. On any given day, there are scores of registered and highly trained therapy dogs to delight travelers, reduce stress, and enhance the overall airport experience.



Front (L-R): **Estelle Arnaud Battandier**, Senior Consular Officer, Canada; **Jordana Mattos**, Honorary Vice-Consul, Brazil; **Elaine Kumpula**, Honorary Consul, Finland; **Marit Lee Kucera**, Honorary Consul, Czech Republic; **Teresa P. Olson**, Honorary Consul, Chile; **Ambassador Ivan Roberto Sierra Medel**, Consul of Mexico.
Back (L-R): **Fouad D. Mehawej**, Honorary Consul, Lebanon; **Kathya Dawe**, Honorary Consul, Brazil; **Ansis Viksnins**, Honorary Consul, Latvia; **Beth Richardson**, Consul General, Canada; **Kristin Speltz**, Honorary Consul, Luxembourg; **Christina Selander Bouzouina**, Honorary Consul, France; **Marc A. Al**, Honorary Consul, Netherlands;

Sandra Cruz, Consul General, El Salvador; **Bruce Karstadt**, Honorary Consul, Retired, Sweden; **Barbara Müller**, Honorary Consul, Germany; **Christa Tiefenbacher-Hudson**, Honorary Consul, Retired, Germany. Missing: **Molly Wright Steenson**, Honorary Consul, Sweden. Canada, Mexico, and El Salvador all have consulates, staffed by career diplomats.



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/
Minneapolis

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



SLOVO PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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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

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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 (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

Production layout: Mary Kucera.

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More information at www.sokolmn.org



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**XXV American Sokol Slet in Chicago
 June 25-29**

americansokol.org/xxv-american-sokol-slet

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**Prostna (calisthenics) rehearsal information:
 Contact: mary.cahill@sokolmn.org**



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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 May 2025

Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp
 June 16-20 20
25

CULTURE AND CUISINE



27th annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp
 June 16-20, 2025
 C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul

Register by May 15 for the Early-Bird discount.

All camp registration materials must be received by June 1. Registration materials for campers ages 6 to 14 and adult volunteers can be downloaded at www.sokolmn.org

Full refund if camp needs to be postponed.

Questions? Contact:
 Louise Wessinger: 651-271-3601