



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 2025 Slovo
articles due October 1**

Sokol Singers
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon

First and
Third
Tuesdays
October
7, 21

**Friendly Friday
Evening Social**
Friday, October 10,
7 p.m.

Kolo Bike Club
Final 2025 ride
Sunday, October 19,
10 a.m.

Language Classes
Adult

See page 3

Sokol Gift Shop
open during events
and by appointment
giftshop@sokolmn.org

Use this QR code
to sokolmn.org to follow
all of our activities,
events, and classes!

- Dinners
- Czech and Slovak
Language Lessons
- Folk Dancing
- Sokol Gymnasts



5th annual

Trunks with Treats

Harvest Fest

**Saturday
October 25²⁰²⁵**
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

43rd Annual Czech Dinner

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

Sunday, October 26²⁰²⁵

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

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

Menu:

Řízek (traditional
Czech Schnitzel),
Bramborový salát
(Czech potato salad),
Česnečka
(garlic soup),
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 Monday, October 20.

Prezidentčin komentář/President's Notes by Bob Kotek

Greetings to all Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota members and frequent *Slovo* readers. Here we are at fall already. Sokol Minnesota's 36th Annual Czech & Slovak Festival closed out the festival season. The fall programming of language courses, gymnastics classes, and youth dance classes are underway. In October, we have the 43rd annual Tastes from the Czech Republic Dinner and Trunks with Treats Harvest Festival. In November there will be the annual Holiday Pancake Breakfast, Craft, and *Koláče* Bake Sale and also our annual meeting. Be sure to check the Sokol Minnesota website (sokolmn.org) often for updates and sign up for the e-blast, which delivers current Sokol Minnesota events to your email inbox. There are many opportunities to join in the fun, visit with other Sokol Minnesota members, and volunteer at the various events.

Work continues on the current building projects, primarily the installation of the new gas boiler in the basement (see page 3) for heat for the entire building and the restoration of the beautiful backdrops for the stage. Countless volunteer hours have gone into all of the building efforts, classes, meals, and other events. We continue to strive to provide interesting and fulfilling programming for everyone to enjoy.

Sokol Minnesota is here for you! *Nazdar!*



Bob Kotek

American Sokol XXIII Convention Coming to Minnesota on June 12 - 14, 2026

Allison Gerber, Sokol Cedar Rapids (Iowa), American Sokol Western District President, and National Financial Secretary, came to Saint Paul/Minneapolis on September 11-13 to view the venue and work on logistics for the 2026 American Sokol XXIII Convention, June 12- 14, 2026.



At the 2022 convention, Western District was selected to host the 2026 convention, with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota (one of six units in Western District) as the convention location. Convention chairpersons are Mary Cahill and Joan Sedlacek from Sokol Minnesota.

Mary Cahill (Left) and Allison Gerber continued their Convention planning at C.S.P.S. Hall before joining the Friendly Friday gathering. Mary is also the Western District's Secretary, Women's Physical Director, and Bylaws Chairperson.



Enjoying the September Sokol Minnesota's Friendly Friday on Friday, September 12, at C.S.P.S. Hall (L-R): Renáta Tichá, Mary Cahill, Allison Gerber, Dave Stepan, Luboš Mareš, and John Topic pouring Czech style, with lots of foam! Missing: M. L. Kucera, who took the photos.

As always on Friendly Friday, a few hands of *mariáš*, the most popular card game in Czechia and Slovakia, were played.

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

xCzech 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

Wayne Zbytovsky

Sergeant at Arms

Silvia Magana

Directors at Large

Markéta Pálková

Don Haselbauer

Membership Director

Steve Ernest

Budget and Finance Committee

Joyce Tesarek, Chair

Activities Director

Jean Draheim

Educational Director

Sally Lieberman

Rental Committee

Markéta Pálková, Chair

Publicity Director

Tereza Treanor

Board of Instructors

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

We Need Your Financial Assistance for a New Boiler

By Dave Stepan, Chair, Building Property Trustees Committee

This past spring when shutting down the boiler, the Building Property Trustees Committee members noticed steam escaping from locations on the boiler that were not intended for steam to escape. After removing the boiler cover, we experienced what was declared to be the “official” death of the C.S.P.S. Hall boiler. Our boiler needs to be replaced and we need your help to pay for the new heating system.

The boiler we are replacing lasted 25 years, which is considered a short life for a boiler; we had hoped it would have lasted longer. Accordingly, we are working to determine the cause of the boiler's demise. For the new boiler, we have contracted with a mechanical engineer. We have a design and drawings that meets the new building codes. We will use these documents for bids on



the
project.

We will

have a firm estimate on the cost once the proposals are received. The installation has to be done prior to the heating season of 2025.

We have been working hard this summer and have been diligent in studying alternatives, and this is our best way forward. Please help us financially if you are able. The boiler needs us and we need it. Our preliminary estimated cost is about \$130,000.

We are talking about a plaque on the second-floor hallway by the elevator with the names of donors over \$500. We specially thank Sokol member Carolyn Sorensen who has already donated \$5,000 toward our new boiler.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at trustees@sokolmn.org or donate directly to the Sokol Legacy Fund (designate New Boiler Fund in the memo line) at sokolmn.org/fundraising/



SPOOKY DJ **IZZY**

BLAST

FROM THE

PAST

80S, 90S AND MORE!

COSTUMES WELCOMED

**LIVE DJ, DRINKS,
AND SNACKS**

**OCT
18
2025**

STARTS AT 7PM

**C.S.P.S HALL
ST. PAUL**

PRE-SALE TICKETS FOR \$15 ON [SOKOLMN.ORG](https://www.sokolmn.org)
OR AT THE DOOR FOR \$20

Hosted by Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota



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

d' oó dž áá ch t
řř éě úú

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

Youth Leadership Award Winners by Doreen McKenney

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Youth Leadership Award (YLA) 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.

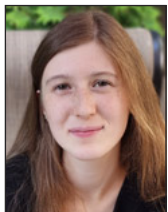
Applicants for this award must actively participate in one or more Sokol Minnesota youth activities, such as *Taneční* Teen dancers, Sokol gymnastics, Czech and Slovak Children's Cultural Day Camp, Sokol Minnesota Youth Link, or actively participate in Czech & Slovak School Twin Cities activities, plus be a regular volunteer at Sokol Minnesota-sponsored events.

The 2025 Youth Leadership Award judges were Sokol Minnesota President Bob Kotek, Sokol Minnesota Education Director Sally Lieberman, and Sokol Minnesota member Richard Sargent.

The judges evaluated and scored the YLA award applications. With great pleasure, they announced that Izabela Carlson, Jas Gillman, and Marius Ellis Morse were the winners. Each received a \$500 scholarship from Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota.

Sokol Minnesota furnished \$400 for each award, with M. L. Kucera renewing her annual donation to all three award winners in the amount of \$100 each. Louise Wessinger awarded her annual \$100 prize for the best essay to Marius Ellis Morse.

Special recognition and thanks to Blanka Brichta, who pledged \$300 in 2025 to the YLA fund in support of recognizing Sokol Minnesota's youth and their commitment and involvement with the organization.



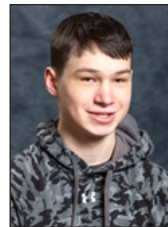
Izabela Carlson

Izabela Carlson joined Sokol Minnesota's children's dance group at age four. Izabela is always a joy to have around, naturally helpful, kind to other children, and willing to dance with whomever needed a partner.

Izabela showed leadership skills from the get-go. As a teen dancer she would often demonstrate steps to the other dancers to help them remember the order of the dances. She graciously offered help, especially to new dancers

learning the more complicated dance steps, which came as a big help to dance instructor Louise Wessinger. Louise expressed that Izabela always showed up to do her best, be it dance practice or at a performance to represent Sokol Minnesota.

Sokol Minnesota was fortunate to have Izabela's help during the school year at C.S.P.S. Hall on Saturdays, when she assisted with and taught the Slovak language class with her mother, Barbora Carlson. Her Slovak roots are deeply embedded, and during Czech and Slovak family events, Izabela would help the younger children with crafts and lend her musical talent to their music group.



Jas Gillman

Jas Gillman has been an unwavering part of Sokol Minnesota gymnastics since he was four years old, learning Sokol strength through calisthenics. He started as an enthusiastic participant and has progressed to a four-time Western District competitor.

This last season, in addition to working out, Jas was coaching classes three days a week at the Hall and helping with setup and takedown of gym equipment. At the 2024 Sokol Instructor School, Jas earned the Bud Benak award, which is given to the individual who truly embodies the spirit of Sokol. Over the last 14 years, Jason Brozovich, Sokol Minnesota's physical director, has had the pleasure of seeing Jas develop into a trustworthy teammate, a competent coach, and a caring, friendly person.

Over the summer, Jas completed his second year at Instructor School, expanding his knowledge in lesson planning and safety for leading classes. He is thankful to be a coach for the Sokol Minnesota gymnastics program and enjoys helping the younger students in the gym. Jas has expressed that he has better communication skills and professionalism that he can use in everyday life because of his experience at Sokol. Being a volunteer at an early age is commendable, and Jas says doing so has taught him to learn more about gymnastics and helping others. He is also very grateful for the leadership mentoring over the years from Mary Cahill and Jason.

Jas is a member of the Sokol Minnesota Youth Link group and has volunteered his time helping with dinners and events at the Hall, Trunks with Treats, the Czech & Slovak Festival, and, this past summer, instructing gymnastics classes at the Sokol Minnesota Children's Cultural Day Camp.



Marius Elias Morse

Marius Elias Morse was introduced to Sokol Minnesota at the age of two. At the age of four, he started dance practice with the Sokol Minnesota children's dance group directed by Louise Wessinger.

Louise said that Marius has been one of the most fun students, finding joy in life in whatever he does. Through the years, he would always be enthusiastically helpful to the younger children, dance with whomever needed a partner, and assist the new boys learning complicated dances in the teen dancer group.

Marius expressed in his winning essay that participating in Sokol Minnesota helped him become a more thoughtful individual, especially when it came to appreciating the values and traditions of others. Learning countless dances rooted in both Czech and Slovak heritage gave him insight into a culture that emphasizes community, resilience, and joy. He became more aware of how culture shapes identity and how it is important to honor that in himself and others. He firmly believes that he has become more thoughtful and outgoing, and with each new experience he has a chance to explore more cultures, places, and possibilities.

In addition to dance, Marius was also involved in Sokol Minnesota's Children's Cultural Day Camp as a camper for a number of years, and, when old enough, stepped up to be a Junior Leader for many years. As a Junior Leader, he helped younger kids to learn and enjoy camp as much as he did. This past year, Marius took the leadership role of head chef cooking instructor at camp. This was a perfect fit for him, as he is now a student in culinary school in Rhode Island.

The awards were presented at the 36th annual Czech and Slovak Festival on September 28.

Minnesota Participants in Cross-Cultural Pathways for Young Leaders



(L-R) Zoe Otieno, Connor Skluzacek and Luke Skluzacek



Connor (left) and Luke Skluzacek, twin brothers from New Prague, received Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota tuition scholarships (\$1,450 each). Team Topic: *What does small talk reveal about deep culture values*. Both are sophomores at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.

Three young Minnesotans attended Cross-Cultural Pathways for Young Leaders in the Czech Republic hosted by the Mestenhauser Institute for International Collaboration (MIIC), with scholarship support from Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota and the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota.

The trip took place July 14-23 and included visits to Prague, Hradec Králové, Ostrava, and Brno. Four college students and two high school students from the United States participated.

Our Minnesota scholars presented their research on August 9 at C.S.P.S. Hall.

MIIC is named for Josef Mestenhauser (1925-2015), a distinguished International Professor at the University of Minnesota, pioneer in the field of international education, and former Honorary Consul to the Czech Republic/Minneapolis (1998-2008).



Zoe Otieno from Lakeville received the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota tuition scholarship (\$1,450). She is a freshman at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. Team Topic: *How Czech and American youth value travel differently*. Zoe's teammate: Nadia Crawford from Philadelphia, attends Tulane University, New Orleans.



Board Members of Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota held their annual planning meeting on September 2 to discuss plans for 2026.

CSCC often collaborates with Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, bringing guest speakers and cultural programs to C.S.P.S. Hall. Most of the CSCC board members are also members of Sokol Minnesota. (L-R) Bea Flaming, Joyce Tesarek, Tricia Bergh, Marit Kucera, Gwen Willems, Jan Knutson, Andy Kozak, Cheryl Nelson. Seated: Renáta Tichá, president.

Sokol Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer at the
Czech Dinner
on October 26

and at the
Pancake Breakfast
on November 23

Email activities@sokolmn.org

Free drop-in

Sokol Minnesota Friendly Friday Evenings

Fun and Games

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

October 10 from 7-10 p.m.

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

95th Annual Booya Picnic a Success! By Scott and Kari Muyres, Booya Picnic Co-Chairpersons

The 95th annual Booya Picnic held at Sokol Camp in Pine City was another success. Many Sokol Minnesota volunteers came together to make this event memorable for patrons and members to enjoy our beautiful and historic camp.



Sokol Camp is in its 100th year!

The Booya Picnic is the main fundraiser to help with upkeep for the camp and to maintain it for the enjoyment of future generations. The St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers entertained the large crowd with traditional and



Pat Andrie collected bingo fees.



Dancers Brittany Stepan and James Metcalf danced for the crowd.

new dances, inviting the crowd to learn and participate. Dave Carlson, singer and talented guitar musician, also performed for the booya patrons.

A special thanks to Ray and Rich Vanyo for orchestrating our many volunteers and for their endless dedication to preparing the booya, so that we can serve the best booya in the state of Minnesota! Bobbi Jo Chandler prepared and served ethnic Czech dishes such as cabbage rolls and *halušky* to enhance the picnic.

The camp also celebrated its 100th year. All this was made possible by our dedicated volunteers, members, and friends. Thanks to all who donated their time, talents, and resources for this special Sokol Minnesota milestone.

Please mark your calendars for the 96th annual Booya Picnic, to be held on Sunday, August 9, 2026.



The Minnesota Sokol Camp heritage display.



Brand New International Festival of Minnesota coming to Saint Paul, April 10-11, 2026 By Doreen McKenney

Ethnic groups and organizations were invited to attend an informal happy hour at Dual Citizen Brewing Company, Saint Paul, on August 27, to reconnect with Festival of Nations (FON) friends and to learn about the new International Festival of Minnesota (IF). The new event is planned for April 10-11, 2026, at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium, downtown Saint Paul. Sokol Minnesota members Louise Wessinger represented the teen dance group, Doreen McKenney attended on behalf of the bazaar and the exhibit booths, and Joyce Tesarek represented the food booth.

Following the passage of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment in 2008, the Minnesota Legislature changed the state law to allow cultural organizations to apply for an

array of operating grants. A unique grant in 2024 for \$20,000 was awarded to the Saint Paul Festival Association to revive the annual Festival of Nations. Started in 1932, the Festival of Nations lapsed during the pandemic and then ended for good in 2023.

Louise Wessinger proudly proclaimed that "Sokol has represented the Czech and Slovak (then Czechoslovak) groups since the very first FON in 1932. We are one of only eight nationalities that have been represented in every FON since it started, which is quite an honor."

Future issues of *Slovo* will bring more details about the upcoming International Festival. Mark your calendar and also plan to volunteer. Thank you.

Information: ifestmn.org



Sokol members (left) Doreen McKenney, Joyce Tesarek, and (far right) Louise Wessinger learned details about the new International Festival from Steve Heckler, International Festival volunteer Event Coordinator, at the Happy Hour event.

Sokol Minnesota's *Kroje* Closet

By Louise Wessinger and Doreen McKenney

Louise Wessinger has been the keeper of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota's folk costumes (*kroje*) for the past 40 years. The "*kroje* closet" at the Hall holds approximately 200 full *kroje*, plus 15 special complete *kroje*, which are not used for dancing, but kept for special events such as *kroje* style shows and anniversary events. Also, there are many women's skirts and vests and men's shirts and vests for special events, which volunteers and children's and teens dance groups can rent and use during large festivals, such as the former Festival of Nations (1932 - 2023). (See page 6 to read about the debut in April 2026 of the International Festival of Minnesota).

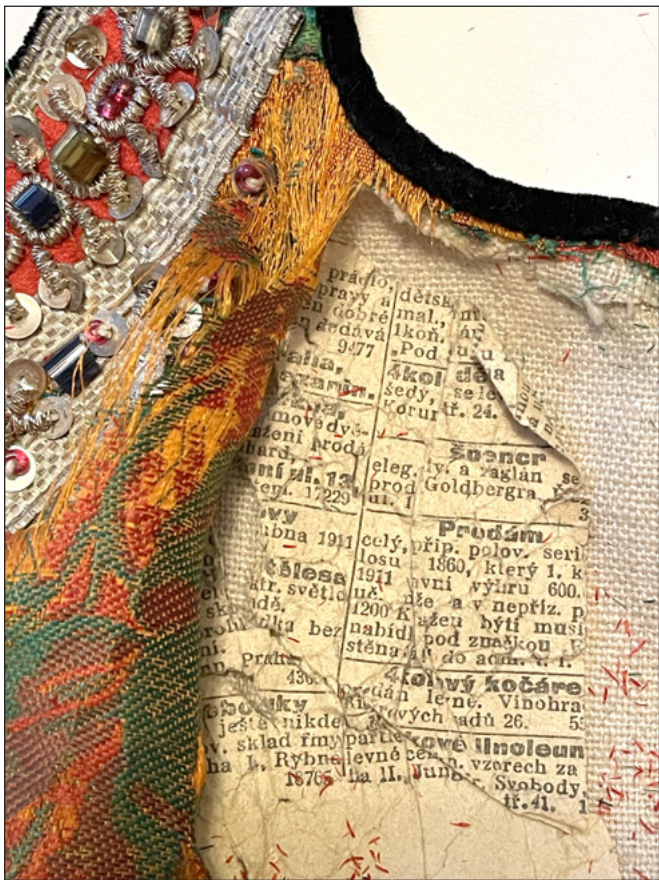
Throughout the year as kids outgrow their *kroje*, they can exchange sizes because of the inventory that Sokol Minnesota maintains. Louise has mended countless pieces, ironed them, and even dropped off pieces at the dry cleaners, so the kids in the dance program can always look great for a performance. In addition to the "*kroje* closet" at the hall, Louise stored over five clothes racks full of *kroje* at her home.

Over the years a variety of pieces donated were not complete or needed repair like buttons missing, petrified elastic, machine or hand-made bobbin lace became ragged, and under skirts or aprons needed alterations. Louise lovingly made repairs, and she continues to this day to repair *kroje*.

Over the summer Doreen McKenney helped Louise repair several pieces. Doreen made an interesting, but not entirely surprising discovery recently, when she removed the tattered fabric on a vest. Newspaper! Newspaper was sometimes used to stiffen *kroj* pieces. It was also used, and still sometimes is, to puff-up tops of sleeves or stiffen skirt hems.

Take a look at both sides of this old Czech newspaper. Can you tell us what is printed in this old newspaper? Let us know by November 1 and win a *kolač*, which you can pick up at the Holiday Breakfast on November 23: Slovo@sokolmn.org

If you are a seamstress and interested in taking on a few restoration projects, please contact Louise: louisewessinger@msn.com



Sokol Minnesota Welcomes a New Members

The Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board of Directors approved five new members in August:

Joyce David of Fridley, with interest in language classes and history and genealogy.

Bernard Herberholt of Saint Paul, with interest in cooking classes, crafting classes, and other Sokol activities.

JoAnn Kalisek of Eagan, with interest in language classes, cooking classes, history and genealogy, and event help in the kitchen and serving meals.

Mary McHugh of Saint Paul, with interest in adult calisthenics, the adult dance group, the adult singing group, the bicycle group, language classes, cooking classes, films and theater, music and dances, history and genealogy, event organizing and kitchen help, publicity and marketing, and fundraising and finances.

Noëlla Tupy of New Prague, with interest in the adult dance group, language classes, music and dances, history and genealogy, and event set-up and booth staffing. .

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

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Sokol member Michael Trittipio, who received a *MŠMT stipendium na LŠSS 2025/ MEYS* scholarship for Summer School of Slavonic Studies 2025 at Charles University in Prague. As a scholarship holder of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic, he attended the 68th edition of the Summer School of Slavonic Studies, which took place from July 17 to August 14, 2025.

Congratulations also to Sokol Member Mike Topic, who attended the Poděbrady Czech Language School, July 14– August 8, 2025, in the Czech Republic, on a scholarship awarded through the Consulate of the Czech Republic/Chicago. It is a program of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic. This four-week course of the Czech language is intended for those over 18 years of age, who would like to learn their immigrant forebear's language or improve their existing Czech language skills. The course gives them the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the Czech culture and get to know different parts of Czechia. A diverse extracurricular program (forums, excursions, lectures, weekend day trips, and more) is prepared for course participants. Tuition, board, and lodging are provided for course participants who win scholarships. Others can attend and pay their own expenses. Application forms can be submitted online to the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, D.C., or one of the three Czech Consulates (New York, Chicago, Los Angeles). Upper Midwest, including Minnesota, applicants apply through Chicago. March 15 is the deadline for 2026. Look for an article in the November 2025 *Slovo* by Mike about his experiences at the Poděbrady Czech Language School.

Sokol Member Jim Chladek, a student in Sokol Minnesota's Czech language classes, has been involved with hosting and advising foreign students for many years. It is one of his passions. He would be happy to tell you about his experiences of sharing cultures and creating lifelong connections as a host family. (651) 335-8317 jimc893@gmail.com

Sokol Minnesota member Katka Svensson is a rising star in ultrarunning. The sport of running ultramarathons has races of 50 kilometers (31+ miles or more) within a set time. Czech-born Katka is from Trinec, near the Polish border, south east of Ostrava in the Moravian-Silesian Region of Czechia, where ultrarunning is a popular sport. In April 2025, Katka earned the Last Woman Standing place (last remaining competitor wins by outlasting all others in a category) at the Elm Creek Backyard Ultra in Maple Grove, Minnesota. She conquered the full 100 miles, finishing 13th overall out of 153 participants. Her time: 21.02.01.



She placed ninth among female finishers in the 50-mile race (time: 13:21:43) in the Black Hills 100 in Sturgis, South Dakota, in late June. Her next race is Duff Dog Backyard Ultra at Blue Mounds State Park near Luverne, Minnesota, on October 11. Affectionately known as "Miss Katka" to the young folk dancers at Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, she has assisted "Miss Louise," Louise Wessinger, the director of the children's dance group *Taneční Mládež*. Katka also performs with the *Lipa* Carpatho-Rusyn Slovak Dancers.

As the proud mother of two daughters, she actively encourages them to stay connected to their Czech-Slovak heritage through Sokol folk dancing, gymnastics, and cultural festivals. Her Czech compatriot Jitka Sebek is proud to point out, "Katka is building connections, inspiring others, and representing the spirit of her community in every stride."

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesotans at Other Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 19, Czech Wenzel Fest, noon-4 p.m., at the **American Legion Park Ballroom, New Prague**. Sponsored by the Czech Heritage Club to celebrate Czech National Day on the 107th anniversary of the founding of the Czechoslovakia in 1918. Find out all about Wenzel! There will be plenty of music and dancing, as well as a performance by the St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers, plus food available. Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Gift Shop will have a table, selling t-shirts, ornaments, and books. Admission by donation. Vendors: cost \$30/table. Contact Fred Simon: fasimon@msn.com

Tuesday to Saturday, October 28 to November 1, From Homeland to Heartland...and Beyond, 2025 CGSI Conference in Kansas City. Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International's 20th Genealogical/Cultural Conference is a great place to learn, share, and connect with the genealogy, history, and culture of those from the Czech and Slovak ancestral lands of Central Europe. The format allows participants to connect with information, resources, and other attendees via presentations and workshops, tours, networking opportunities, and social events. Sokol Minnesota member Patrick Dewane brings his acclaimed one-man, multi-media, 90-minute stage performance about his Czech grandfather, *The Accidental Hero*, to the stage on Wednesday evening, October 29. Complete conference details are available at CGSI.org

CGSI especially thanks Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota, Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota, and M. L. Kucera, Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis. They are three of the 26 Corporate/Organizational Sponsors of this CGSI 2025 Kansas City Conference.

IN THE NEWS

Community Reporter, September 2025, page 2:

Notebook Recollections by Tim Rumsey, *Rest in Peace, Mr. Positive*, "Sunday August 3, 2025, 5:45 p.m. West 7th's C.S.P.P. Hall was emptied out. Lights down, chairs and tables folded and put away. ...The beautiful 140-year-old wood floor was being swept, polished. ...This was Carl's party. The Mr. Positive memorial.C.S.P.S. program manager Dawn had arranged and watched over a magnificent celebration. ...We won't be seeing Carl and his trusty three-wheeler all over West 7th anymore." Carl "Mr. Positive" Bentson (1962-2024) was known to many Sokol Minnesotans for his always-decorated (lights, flags, ribbons, reflectors) three-wheeler bike that he rode all over the West 7th neighborhood. He also was a frequent diner at Sokol's dinners, along with his friend and neighbor Karen Koeppel.

New Prague Times, September 4, 2025, page 3: *Time Capsules* 100 years Ago, September 3, 1925: Sokol classes will begin on September 14 in New Prague with two junior classes for younger boys and girls and two senior classes for older boys and girls.

August 2025 Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Board Highlights

by Denise Stibal, Corresponding Secretary

August 21, 2025, Board of Directors' online meeting was called to order by President Bob Kotek. BOD members: Jason Brozovich, Jean Draheim, Steve Ernest, Ed Hamernik, Don Haselbauer, Markéta Pálková, Fred Simon, Dave Stepan, Denise Stibal, Joyce Tesarek, Tereza Treanor, Wayne Zbytovsky. Guest: Sokol member M. L. Kucera.

Education Director: Sally Lieberman reported the summer 2025 events went well, including meet-and-greet with Petra and Honza of *Cook Like Czechs* on July 25 (September *Slovo*, page 4) (<https://www.cooklikeczechs.com>); mushroom hunt on July 27 (September *Slovo*, page 3); presentations by Sokol Minnesota's and Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota's MIIC scholarship recipients on August 9 (see page 5). <https://miic.world/>

Language class registration is now open online for all classes. Our new Czech teacher is Jana Kalinová Zmrzliková, who will teach the online intermediate Czech class (September *Slovo*, page 3).

A possible project for 2025–27 is a play or festival about the Brno Memorial Torah on permanent loan to Macalester College. Sally will attend the annual Jewish heritage festival Štetl Fest, in Brno, Czechia, August 27–30; she expects to meet with the festival director to discuss possibilities.

Board of Instructor: Jason Brozovich talked about the three instructors who attended the Instructor's School, June 29 - July 7, in Chicago. Two of three instructor's families applied and received reimbursement for gas and toll expenses from the American Sokol Sister Carol Crosson Endowment Foundation to attend the Instructor's School. Tuition for the three students will be reimbursed by the Western District to Sokol Minnesota.

Gymnastic classes start September 15. A new ring set is needed; Jason will come to the Board next month with a proposal.

Building Property Trustees

Committee: Dave Stepan reported that Quetica, a mechanical engineering company, was hired to do an analysis of the boiler replacement and other building needs.

Fire suppression testing was completed. Bryan Wyberg installed four new shades.

Czech and Slovak Festival banners have been hung on C.S.P.S. Hall.

The Pajarito's Western Avenue windows were replaced. Total bill: \$28,455.

Finance Committee: Joyce Tesarek made the motion to approve Wayne Zbytovsky as our new Sokol Minnesota Treasurer. Passed

As is done at each Finance meeting, checks and invoices were reviewed. Starting with September, Richard Sargent on the Finance Committee will send the donations report each month to Bonnie Simon on the Finance Board and Denise Stibal (Corresponding Secretary) to report to the Board and also to *Slovo*. Because of deadlines, there will be a two-month delay before donations appear in *Slovo*, such that July donations appeared in the September *Slovo*.

Protocol is being set up for the Rental committee to track income and expenses, as well as deposits and refunds.

Sokol has spent a total of \$32,364 of our \$34,066 STAR Grant award for 2025 for new windows; current STAR Grant account balance is \$1,703.

Property valuation was completed by an assessor; estimated market value: \$910,600, taxable market value: \$441,000 (2025).

Insurance will be reviewed and renewed, as well as obtaining Cyber Liability Coverage.

Gaming Committee: Ed Hamernik asked for a motion to approve the September budget of \$15,150; carried. Motion also carried to approve net income for July of \$342. We need to start paying the City of Minneapolis three percent of gross sales at Falling Knife Brewery Co. (same as we pay to the City of Saint Paul).

Membership Director: Steve Ernest moved to approve five new members, Joyce David, Fridley; Bernard Heberholt, Saint Paul; JoAnn Kalisek, Eagan; Mary McHugh, Saint Paul;

Noëlla Tupy, New Prague. Motion passed. Current membership total: 322.

Rental Committee: Markéta Pálková, chair, reported the committee will start meetings again after the C&S Festival.

Activities Director and Stage

Committee Representative: Jean Draheim stated the fall 2025 Sokol events postcard is at the printer and will be mailed with the September *Slovo*.

The front roll-drop (Prague city scene) on the stage will be taken down September 20 to be cleaned and repaired. It will be rehung before the first gym class starts the next week.

Publicity: Chair Tereza Treanor sent an email to *Twin Cities Insider* to advertise the C&S Festival. She will also contact the *10,000 Interests Podcast* to promote the Festival.

Corresponding Secretary: Denise Stibal reported General Fund Donations: \$4,160 and Legacy Fund: \$300 for July.

Sunshine Committee Report:

A get well card was sent to Lucy Rose. A thank you card was received from the Roepke family.

Vice President: Fred Simon extended invitations to attend Czech Country Minnesota events. Czech Fest in Veseli is Saturday, September 13.

New Prague's *Dožínky* Festival parade is Saturday, September 20. The Czech Heritage Club is sponsoring a Czech Wenzel Fest, October 19, Park Ballroom, New Prague. Vendor spots are available. Cost \$30/table. Contact Fred Simon: fasimon@msn.com

Slovo: Interim Managing Editor Marit Kucera noted the September *Slovo* goes to press Monday morning, August 25.

Czech & Slovak Festival: Joyce Tesarek reminded the Board that Thursday, September 25 is *koláče* baking. Help is needed to bag the baked *koláče* starting at 1:30 p.m. Next Festival planning meeting is September 2, 7 p.m. Denise Stibal, silent auction chair, reported that gift certificates have already been received for the silent auction.

The Glass Room by Simon Mawer. Other Press: New York, 405 pages, 2009. Available at libraries and bookstores.

The main character in *The Glass Room* (*Glasraum* in German) is a magnificent Bauhaus-style building in Bohemia. Mawer has set an imagined story in a house, which is based on the real Villa Tugendhat designed by architect Mies van der Rohe in Brno in the 1920s.

The glass room of the fictional hilltop Landauer house is a masterpiece of steel, travertine floors, an onyx wall that changes color as the sun sets, and windows looking out on a garden.

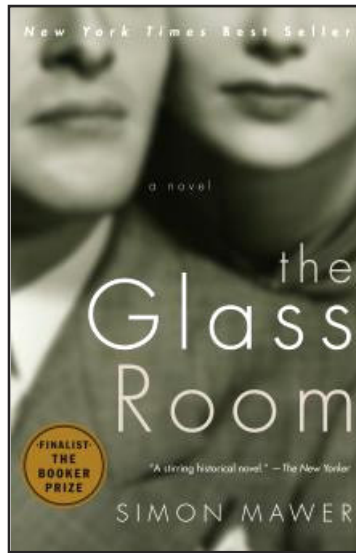
The story opens with honeymooners Viktor and Liesel Landauer, a Jew married to a gentile, meeting architect Rainer Von Abt, who builds for them this highly modern home. It signifies their optimism and faith in the future, the spirit of the post-World War I world where they believe reason and democracy will prevail.

The couple start a family with daughter Otilie and son Martin and enjoy the house for ten years. Then the darkness leading to World War II harms Viktor's successful automobile business and makes him realize the Nazi threat. The family flees to Switzerland and eventually to the United States.

The storyline of *The Glass Room* covers six decades as the building passes from private ownership to different uses under Nazi and communist control, and finally as a museum.

Although Mawer can tell a good story and his prose can be smooth and lyrical, two flaws in the book are irritating to

me. Almost all characters are sexualized and depicted in numerous tedious and repetitive sex scenes. Considering European history's importance to the storyline, the book would be better if the author included dates instead of referring to seasons, et cetera.



The book was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize and named best book of the year in 2009 by six publications. *The Glass Room* is one of 14 books by award-winning Mawer, who was born and educated in England and worked as a biology teacher. He lived in Rome with his family from 1977 until his death in February 2025 at the age of 76.

In an interview (March 18, 2012, iDNES.cz), the daughter of the owner of the real Villa Tugendhat was asked what she thought of the book. Mawer, who had not contacted her family, depicted the fictional father repeatedly visiting a prostitute. She replied to the interviewer, "For me, it's another theft. First the Nazis took our house, and now Mawer has taken our story.

The novel is not about our family, it's against our family. It makes me furious."

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., Saturday, October 18, to discuss part one of *Milan Rastislav Štefánik: A Man of Iron Will* by Jozef Banaš.

RESERVE YOUR DINNER NOW!
43rd Annual Czech Dinner
Tastes from the Czech Republic
Sunday, October 26

To order online: www.sokolmn.org/cc
 Pre-paid reservation by Monday, October 20

sokolmn.org
events@sokolmn.org
 Instagram: @sokolminnesota
facebook.com/sokolminnesota

Join Sokol Minnesota Singers!

Czech & Slovak songs.
 Meet on the second floor
 at the C.S.P.S. Hall.
 First and third Tuesdays
 of the month, September - May.
 10 a.m. -12 noon. All are welcome.

Special piano accompaniment by Don Haselbauer
 Questions: activities@sokolmn.org



Czech Honorary Consul News

October
2025

A delegation from Pardubice Region of the Czech Republic visited the Twin Cities on August 22, between several days of community events with Czech-American descendants in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, which is sister city to Zamberk in the Pardubice Region. Their focus in coming to Saint Paul was to meet with local leaders to learn about municipal and regional public/private partnerships for business incubators and how startups and early-stage entrepreneurs are supported.

Laurence Reszetar, Deputy Director, Minnesota Trade Office (Department of Employment and Economic

Development/DEED) put together three distinct sessions with DEED staff as well as representatives from GreaterMSP, Saint Paul Port Authority, City of Saint Paul, City of Bloomington, and the Center for Entrepreneurship at the Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota.

Before the group departed in early evening to return to Rice Lake, they continued their Minnesota experience with dinner at Waldmann Brewery in Saint Paul, hosted by presidents of Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota (Bob Kotek and former president Dave Stepan) and the Czech and Slovak Cultural Center of Minnesota (Renáta Tichá), plus the Czech Honorary Consul. Their Minnesota day ended with a tour of the 1887 C.S.P.S. Sokol Hall and with signing the guest book in the office of the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic/Minneapolis.

The delegation included (L-R) Martin Netolický, Governor of the Pardubice Region; Klára Štefančová, Director of the Regional Development Agency of the Pardubice Region; Jiří Janků, Director of P-PINK (Pardubice Business Incubator); Jiří Mencák, Mayor of Zamberk; and Miroslav Janovský, Head of the Department of Development and Investments of the Pardubice Region.



Timber! Art and Woodwork at the Fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire is on exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) until January 4, 2026, in the Cargill Gallery. Of special interest are the works by Moravian-born Josef Hoffman (1870-1956). This 1904 table is ebonized oak with white filler, boxwood inlay, silver-plated mounts. *Waterfall (Wasserfall)*, printed black on white cotton (1910-1912), hangs on the wall to the right of the table.

Also in the exhibit is a *Sitzmaschine* reclining chair, designed in 1905 by Hoffman for the Purkersdorf Sanatorium, outside Vienna. This sanatorium was more of a hotel than a hospital and turned into a social and artistic venue for Viennese society. Among the treatments were mineral baths, physical therapies, therapeutic massages, and physiotherapy, typical of traditional Czech and Slovak spa towns. The chair became known as the *Sitzmaschine* with its adjustable recline when furniture maker Kohn began to show it at international Design exhibitions around Europe.

Other examples of Hoffman's work included in this exhibit are a silver-plated metal storm lantern (1904) and a basket with nickel-plated brass (1905-1910), plus the work by well-known Austrian expressionist artist, Egon Schiele (1890-1918) and others from early 20th-century Austria-Hungary. (Information sources from Mia didactic panels and Wikipedia)



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

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.

Production layout: Mary Kucera.

October issue contributors: Steve Ernest, Sally Lieberman, Bob Kotek, M. L. Kucera, Doreen McKenney, Scott and Kari Muyres, Jitka Sebek, Denise Stibal, Louise Wessinger, and Gwen Willems.

October issue photographs, ads, or illustrations: M. L. Kucera, Sally Lieberman, Doreen McKenney, Scott and Kari Muyres, Katka Svensson, and Gwen Willems.

More information at www.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: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

I would like my gift designated: ☐ in memory or ☐ in honor of:

Make checks payable to **Sokol Minnesota**

Write **Legacy Fund** in the memo line.

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

Or donate online: www.sokolmn.org use the "Who We Are" tab.



For Sokol's
Latest News!

Join the
E-blast List

Send your email address to
publicity@sokolmn.org

sokolmn.org

events@sokolmn.org

Instagram: [@sokolminnesota](https://www.instagram.com/sokolminnesota)

facebook.com/sokolminnesota

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 2025

Children and Teen Folk Dancing Saturdays

9:45 a.m. - noon

Dance practice
is held each Saturday
morning through the school year,

at the historic C.S.P.S. Hall,
383 Michigan St., Saint. Paul, MN 55102

Practices are subject to change.

Contact Louise: 651-271-3601 • folkdance@sokolmn.org

Holiday Breakfast

Craft and *Koláče* Bake Sale

9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sunday, November 23 20
25



Price

\$10 Adult;
\$6 child under 9;
\$30/family of 4
Pancakes
and all the fixings

Public welcome
No breakfast
reservations needed

To reserve a craft table:
activities@sokolmn.org



Pre-order koláč!

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

Prepay: credit/debit card
www.sokolmn.org/cc/

Prepaying your koláč order
by check
text/call: 651-210-0401

Prepaid koláče orders
must be received
by Saturday, November 15

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



Annual Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota Membership Meeting

Friday, November 21, 7 p.m.

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