

CZECH AND SLOVAK



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

SLOVO

May 2026
vol. 49 no. 4

UPCOMING EVENTS

June/July Slovo articles
due May 1

Sokol Singers First and Third
Tuesdays
Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon
May 5 and 19

**Friendly Friday
Evening Social**
Friday, May 8, 7 p.m.

Kolo Sokol Bike Club
May-October
See pages 6 and 8

Volunteer Opportunities
See page 8

Sokol Gift Shop
by appointment
giftshop@sokolmn.org

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 139th year.

Contact
Joyce Tesarek
to discuss your tax-
deductible donation at
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

**28th Annual
Children's Czech and Slovak
Cultural Day Camp** 
June 15 - 19 
C.S.P.S. Hall 383 Michigan St., Saint Paul

Cultural Landscape
In the
Czech and Slovak
LANDS
(the forest feeds us more than food)

28th Annual Children's Czech and Slovak Cultural Day Camp June 15 - 19, 2026

**Register by May 15
for the early-bird discount.**

All camp registration materials
must be received by June 1.
Registration materials for campers
grades K to 5, Junior leaders grades 6-12,
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

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota

YLA
Youth Leadership Award  **2026**

The 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.
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.

2026 YLA application closes July 1.

More information go to: **www.sokolmn.org**

th annual

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CZECH & SLOVAK



FESTIVAL

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

Become
a Volunteer:
festival@sokolmn.org



Sunday
September 27 
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

Prezidentův komentář/President's Notes by Bob Kotek

Greetings to our Sokol community! In this issue, I wanted to share some of my history celebrating two of the spring traditions in the Czech Republic. Please note the Maypole tradition is also celebrated in Slovakia.

In Slavic cultures, spring has always been the most important time of the year associated with life, time of rebirth, fertility, and love. Ancient Slavs celebrated the end of winter and the coming of spring with a number of festivals and rituals. Among Czechs, one such tradition has survived to this day, popularly known as Czech Valentine's Day.



Bob Kotek

Pálení čarodějnic (The Burning of the Witches)

This two-part tradition begins on the evening of April 30. Czechs gather around large bonfires on hilltops to celebrate the end of winter. Once it gets dark, an effigy of a witch, made of sticks, straw, and old clothing, is paraded through the community, put on top of the bonfire, and burned. The smoke coming from the giant fire is celebrated as the witch flying away. According to folktales, she is responsible for keeping the cold weather around, and this ritual marks the end of winter and helps the warm weather return more quickly.

Traditional burning of the witches celebration in Kolence, Czech Republic, circa 2017, with friends Ralph Prchal, Bob Kotek, Jiri Sluka, and Fred Simon.



While its spiritual and religious symbolism has lost importance in modern times, the event is still a beloved community celebration. In rural communities, groups of children and teenagers often spend the whole day competing with rival groups to construct the best bonfire. Later in the evening, the celebration continues with a feast when the community roasts food on the colossal fire, enjoys beer, plays music, and sings folk songs late into the night.

As the bonfire dies down and the clock approaches midnight, another tradition ensues: searching for a blossoming cherry tree. If one is found, it is crucial for young couples to kiss under it to ensure good health in the coming year. This marks the end of the celebration, and also the transition into the next holiday.

The Day of Love

While the first of May is most widely known as May Day or Labor Day in the Czech Republic, it is also a time of love. Traditionally, the day prior young men would create a maypole and guard it all night to make sure no men from neighboring villages stole it. If they successfully defended it, they would be allowed to give women in their community presents, and in the evening there would be a celebration of love involving dancing and plenty of opportunities for young couples to meet. Throughout the whole day, the tradition of kissing under blossoming cherry trees would continue, and in the evening couples would jump over bonfires while holding hands to test the strength of their bond.

Celebrating the raising of the maypole, May 1, 2017 in Kolence.

Montgomery's 2026 May Day celebration is scheduled for Sunday, May 3, noon - 5 p.m. *Uvidíme se tam* (see you there).

Nazdar!



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota 2026 BOD (Board of Directors)

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Telephone: 651-290-0542

Past issues of *Slovo* and
Hall Calendar of Events:

www.sokolmn.org

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota provides fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs for children, teens, and adults.

Information on our programs, calendar of events, membership, C.S.P.S. Hall rentals, and gift shop, plus e-addresses for our board, program directors, volunteer staff, and the Czech Honorary Consul, as well as *Slovo* past issues, are available at
www.sokolmn.org or www.facebook.com/sokolminnesota



Use this
QR code
to go to
sokolmn.org



Two of Sokol Minnesota's new Board of Directors members, Linda Maxey and Aaron Mislivec, flipping pancakes.

McKenney, Aaron Mislivec, Patrick Nau, Cheryl Nelson Theuninck, Joan Sedlacek, Steve Shimer, Rich Smith, **Joyce Tesarek**, and Bryan Wyberg.

Thank you also to vendors Czech Sis Kitchen (Markéta Pálková), Mirwood Cottage (**Jean Draheim** and Chuck Draheim), Deanna Miller, and the Sokol Gift Shop (**Doreen McKenney**). Names in bold indicate area chairs.

Thank you to all who came and supported this fundraiser.

March 29, 2026, Pancake Breakfast

The C.S.P.S. Hall was abuzz with conversations and packed solid at this spring's Pancake Breakfast with a record number of attendees. All of our bake sale items, *koláče*, Bob Kostichka's tasty caramel corn, and breakfast food, sold out. Between bussing dishes, resetting tables, and dispensing additional pancakes, our Sokol Minnesota volunteers asked new attendees how they heard about the breakfast. Responses included Facebook, the sandwich board out front, the website, and from neighbors. Many commented on how delicious the pancakes (our secret Sokol Minnesota recipe) tasted. Attendees also shopped at the vendors' tables.

Sokol Minnesota thanks the following volunteers, who make events like this possible: Tom Aubrecht, Jason Brozovich, Dennis Cahill, **Mary Cahill**, Julia Fiola, Roger Green, Dave Grostephan, **Glynis Grostephan**, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Theresa Hudacek, Bob Kostichka, Linda Maxey, Doreen



Minnesota native and Sokol Minnesota member Barb Pavelka, visiting Minnesota from her home in New York City, helped bake *koláče* with Sokol Minnesota member Roger Green, for the Pancake Breakfast Craft and *Koláče* Bake Sale table and IFest-MN.

Celtic Settlement

During a construction project (July 2025) in the Czech Republic, archaeologists discovered a 4th century B.C.E. Celtic settlement near Hradec Králově.

The roughly 62-acre site uncovered thousands of rare and valuable artifacts, foundations of dwellings, sanctuaries and manufacturing rooms. The Celtic settlement was likely a trade hub connecting the Baltic to the Mediterranean.

For more information visit, <https://english.radio.cz/unique-celtic-settlement-discovered-near-hradec-kralove-8856300>



MAY 7, 2026

TOMÁŠ KLVAŇA

Feature, not a Bug?

**How Tribalism and
Technology are Eroding
Institutional Guardrails**

3rd annual Milan Sebek Lecture



Lecture and Discussion

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

**Thursday, May 7, 2026
7:00 PM
CONTACT @
INFO@CS-CENTER.ORG
651-587-9621**

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

**THIS EVENT IS FREE WITH
SUPPORT OF THE CZECH
GOVERNMENT**

96th Annual Booya Picnic will once again be held at Sokol Camp in Pine City

By Kari and Scott Muyres

**Join us for the 96th annual Booya Picnic at Sokol Camp
on Sunday, August 9, 2026**

19201 Woodland Acres South, Pine City, MN

The picnic will begin at noon and we will continue food and beverage service until 4 p.m.

This year, the entertainment will include guitar player and folksinger Dave Carlson. The Lipa Slovak Dancers will entertain the crowds as well, starting at 2:30 p.m.

Please come one and all for this great Sokol event to connect with old friends and to make new ones.

We are always in need of servers and help with tent setup, kids' games, and many other areas. Please contact Kari or Scott Muyres at 753-226-0313, text or call. *Nazdar!*

Learners from New Country School Visit Sokol Minnesota

by Sally Lieberman

On March 5, Sokol Minnesota was honored to host 12 high school students and one teacher from the New Country School in Henderson, Minnesota, for a day of learning at the C.S.P.S. Hall. The trip was organized by senior Ashlynn Dhaene, as part of a project to share her Czech heritage with classmates. Two other students in the group said that they have some Czech heritage.

The day's activities included a welcome from Honorary Consul Marit Kucera; a tour of the Hall led by Joan Sedlacek; a history talk with Joe Landsberger; and a *kroj* talk and folk dance demonstration with Louise Wessinger and fellow St. Paul Czech and Slovak Folk Dancers Pam Langworthy, Sandy Prochaska, Richard Sargent, Renáta Tichá, and John Topic. *Koláče* were donated (and baked) by Ludmila Pálková and Markéta Pálková. Doreen McKenney opened the gift shop for the visitors.

The New Country School has a project-based curriculum. Students do projects and have learning experiences in the community to earn the necessary credit required for graduation. Their trip to the C.S.P.S. Hall was one of their "Experience Fridays." In the reflections they wrote after the trip, several students noted that the folk dancing was their favorite part of the day. They also raved about the *koláče*! One student noted, "I wouldn't say I knew much about Czech culture, or people, prior to our outing. I left this Friday with a new found appreciation and admiration for the culture. I really enjoyed the dancing especially."



Plan a Sokol Camp Getaway



Looking for an affordable family getaway this summer? The historic Minnesota Sokol Camp, located on beautiful Cross Lake just outside of Pine City, Minnesota, is available for Sokol members to enjoy.

The Sokol Camp's main lodge is charmingly rustic, with a screened porch on the lake side of the building, a large common room with a fireplace, a large kitchen with refrigerators and gas stoves for cooking, electricity, hot and cold running water, and two bathrooms with showers. There are eight rooms that each have one full bed, one large room with one queen-sized bed, and one large room with one queen-sized bed and one full bed.

Renters can enjoy swimming, boating, a campfire ring, pingpong, fishing, and yard games on the large field.

Nightly rates for Sokol members are \$30-35 per room. Limited private-use rental of the full camp is also available.

Contact the Sokol Camp Association reservationist, Renae Andrie Faunce, for more details or to make a reservation: sokolcamp.reservation@gmail.com or call 651-793-6938.

Sokol Minnesota Thanks Donors

Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota greatly appreciates donations received in March 2026 supporting Sokol programs and the maintenance of our historic C.S.P.S. Hall.

LEGACY FUND

TOTAL \$150

\$100-\$499: Gibson Batch (New Boiler).

FOR LEASE

Bar and Restaurant Space

Located 605 7th St W, St. Paul
(Formerly Pajarito Restaurant)

Available space is street level in
the historic C.S.P.S. Hall Building

Contact DJ at (612) 701-6296

Sokol Minnesota Welcomes New Members

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

Elizabeth Mischke, Hastings, with interest in the literature group; language classes; cooking classes; crafting classes; films and theater; music and dances; history and genealogy; event help: organize, setup, kitchen, staff booths, serve meals, and cleanup; publicity and marketing; fundraising and finances; and other Sokol activities.

Katarina Bila and **Martin Marko**, Bloomington, with interest in youth dance group and youth culture camp, and event help: setup, kitchen, and cleanup.

Donnell Linscheid, Cottage Grove.

Larry Bartek, Eagan.

Welcome to Sokol Minnesota!

The First Annual International Festival of Minnesota (IFest-MN) held April 10-11

The first annual International Festival of Minnesota (IFest-MN) was held April 10 and 11, at the Saint Paul RiverCentre. This year 70 nations gathered to share their culture through a variety of means, including language, food, art, ceremony, dance, movement, music, or storytelling, inviting others into their community story.

Friday morning IFest-MN opened its doors to more than 7,000 plus students from schools throughout Minnesota.

The Minnesota Czech and Slovak community was well represented by serving up Czech and Slovak cuisine at the cafe, a cultural exhibit, dancing by Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers, Sokol's *Taneční* teen dancers and St. Paul Czech and Slovak Dancers, and the St. Paul South Bohemia Bagpipe Ensemble.

Exhibit chair, Doreen McKenney, painted backdrop panels of street shops nestled under dwellings in a town square. A replica of a maypole stood in the center where townspeople would gather to welcome spring with dancing, live music, and feasts around the decorated tree.



Emily Fiamova and Mason visiting the exhibit.



Volunteers Isis Weeks and Kate Weeks with students testing their knowledge at the exhibit quiz box.

Exhibit volunteers: Mary Cahill, **Doreen McKenney**, Glynis Grostephan, Jake Jacobson, Marit Lee Kucera, Joan Sedlacek, Isis Weeks, and Kate Weeks.

The cafe offered a variety of choices to purchase. Menu: *jablečný, makový, and ořechový závin* (apple, poppy seed, and nut strudel), *koláče* (fruit pastry), *langoš* (fried flat bread), *párek v rohlíku* (hot dog in a bun), *segedínský guláš* (pork goulash), coffee, lemonade, and water.

Festival food prep: Jason Brozovich, Dawn Bulera, Suzie Johnson, Miša Kotek and Emma, Ludmila Pálková, Markéta Pálková, and Georgian Yates.

Cooks and bakers Ludmila Pálková, Ludmila Pálková, Miša Kotek, and Markéta Pálková enjoying the afternoon shift.



Cafe volunteers: Tom Aubrecht, **Jason Brozovich**, **Dawn Bulera**, Jana Castillon, Blanka Cleveland and Emilie, Kinsey Gade, Roger Green, Martina Gurgel, Amanda Hanson, Ashlee Hanson, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Jan Kostal, Rosina Kostal,

Bob Kotek, **Miša Kotek**, Zdenek Kuhn, Pam Langworthy, Sally Lieberman, Raya Losier, Luboš Mareš, Igor Nestrašil, Ludmila Pálková with Phillip and Thomas, Ludmila Pálková, Markéta Pálková and Mathew, Richard Sargent, Jitka Sebek, Steve Shimer, Denise Stibal, **Joyce Tesarek**, Renáta Tichá, John Topic, Adriana and Jeffrey Wenberg with Sophia and Michaela, Michaela Makarianová-Wentz, and Brian Wyberg. Sokol *koláče* bakers: Mary Cahill, Roger Green, Don Haselbauer, Katie Haselbauer, Doreen McKenney, Frank Petruska, Barbara Pavelka, Joan Sedlacek, and Joyce Tesarek.

Ambassador Andrej Dobra was accompanied by Paula Kolláriková, Cultural and Public Diplomacy Counselor, and escorted on his visit by Barbora Carlson.

Sokol's *Taneční* Teen dancers danced twice on Friday for Student Day, and once on Saturday when the group had their photo taken with Slovak Ambassador Dobra.

Dances performed were: *Vrt Se Dievca, Kálamika, and Tancuj Tancuj*.

Taneční Teen dancers: Adam, Althea, Callista, Emma, Emre, Fiona, Kamila, Keely, Luna, Olivia, and Sara. Adult Helpers: Karin Fisher, Anna Hester, Renáta Tichá, John Topic, and **Louise Wessinger**, Director.

St. Paul Czech and the Slovak Folk Dancers performed: *Pilky čeladensky, Andulkou, and Dievča Bude Veselé*.

James Metcalf taught and rehearsed the Slovak dance, *Dievča Bude Veselé*, with the help of group director Louise. After the dance performance the group invited the audience to participate on stage to learn a couple of dance mixers.

St. Paul Czech and the Slovak Folk Dancers: Dawn Bulera and Jason Brozovich, Lenka Hester and Dave Cammack, Teresa Pojar and Anthony Kaczor, Jyni Koschak and Michael Topic, Pam Langworthy and Richard Sargent, Julie and Scott Lindner, Judy Metcalf and Rick Palma, Darnell and Dave Stepan,



St. Paul South Bohemia Bagpipe Ensemble with **Frank Trnka**, Director, John Topic, Dawn Bulera, Maria Neuzil, and Jason Brozovich.



Brittany Stepan and James Metcalf, and Renáta Tichá and John Topic.

Names in **bold** are leads.

Dance mixer with St. Paul Czech and the Slovak Folk Dancers.

Skoda: Laurin & Klement by Ivan Margolius and Charles Meisl.
Osprey Publishing: London, large format, 192 pages, 1992.
Available at bookstores and libraries.

Skoda: Laurin & Klement is a thorough and detailed look at Skoda Works over time, a great read for aficionados of Skoda, motor vehicles in general, and Czech businesses. The manufacture of motorized transport in Bohemia was started by the firm Laurin & Klement in the small town of Mladá Boleslav, 11 miles northeast of Prague.

Today the company produces and sells vehicles in more than 100 countries. They continue to be emblazoned with the Skoda logo of a winged arrow and three feathers. The story behind the Skoda symbol is that, when Emil von Skoda visited the United States, he was so impressed with a Native American's feathered headdress that he returned to Pilzeň with a relief image that later inspired the company's logo.

As Margolius and Meisl wrote, "Skoda cars were—and are—designed to provide maximum service: long lasting, rugged, well conceived vehicles which have gained laurels in countless cross country rallies and proved their stamina in spectacular long distance journeys across continents, through deserts, pampas and rocky mountains."

One fascinating part of Skoda's history is the story of twenty-six-year-old Vaclav Klement, a bookseller in Mladá Boleslav who couldn't get spare parts to repair his German bicycle in 1894. Two years later Klement opened a bicycle repair shop with Václav Laurin in Mladá Boleslav. The two men debuted the Slavia motorcycle in the first motorcycle factory in central Europe in 1899. By 1905, their firm was producing automobiles as the second-oldest car manufacturer in the Czech lands after Tatra.

Since Emil von Skoda founded Skoda in 1859 as a heavy industrial and armaments manufacturer first based in Plzeň, it has gone on to produce bicycles, motorcycles, motor cars, and other business and military equipment. The Skoda firm acquired Laurin & Klement in 1925, introducing assembly lines in 1930. Under the German

occupation, Skoda Works reduced vehicle output and produced military terrain vehicles, planes, and other weapons.

When communism fell, most industries were privatized and the state looked at eight potential foreign partners for Skoda. It came down to Renault, which would have eliminated the Skoda brand, and Volkswagen, which was chosen by the Czech government in 1990. Volkswagen chair Carol Hahn said the key factors for

Volkswagen's interest were Skoda's traditional strength in Central and Eastern Europe, the skill of its workforce, and its geographical location and capacity.

It is interesting that speed and long-distance reliability trials remain an important and glamorous way for Skoda to excel. It won Intercontinental Rally challenges, WRC-2 championships, and others, as well as setting a world record at the Bonneville Speedway.

The book contains an introduction, more than 200 photographs and illustrations, a bibliography, a chronology, an index, and a chart of technical information on pertinent motorcycles, passenger cars, commercial vehicles, tractors, and rallies.

Margolius and Meisl also co-authored the award-winning book *Tatra – The Legacy of Hans Ledwinka*. Margolius was born and educated in Prague. He left Czechoslovakia in 1966 due to political persecution of his family, studied in London, and worked as an architect-designer. Meisl was born in Prague and educated in Prague and Brussels. He left Czechoslovakia in 1936 and settled in Britain, where he worked in business and writing.

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, May 16,
to discuss *The Accidental Hero: A Journey of Discovery,
Liberation and Legacy* by Patrick Dewane.

Hurvínek Visits ŠKOLA for EASTER



Hurvínek, who will soon celebrate his 100th birthday, visited the Czech and Slovak School Twin Cities with his faithful dog, Žeryk. They marveled at our spring Easter traditions. Hurvínek even helped weave a *pomlázka* and decorate some Easter eggs.

The Czech UNESCO-protected puppetry tradition dates back centuries. Hurvínek is a legendary puppet and a true cultural icon. He is a precocious, mischievous, and always-curious boy known for his signature rolling eyes and high-pitched voice. He appears together with his father, Spejbl, in educational and satirical puppet plays.

6 May 2026 *Slovo*

SOKOL BIKE RIDES May through October 2026



Ride metro area trails with
fellow Sokol bikers.

Check the Kolo webpage at
sokolmn.org/bike
for upcoming dates and details.

Czech Honorary Consul News May 2026

In early December, I received a call from Terrin Vavra, a Major League Baseball free agent, who grew up in Menomonie, Wisconsin. He wanted to establish his Czech ancestry, in order to be able to play on the Czech Republic's National Baseball team in the 2026 World Baseball Classic (WBC). I immediately referred Terrin to the Czechoslovak Genealogical

Thanks to CGSI, by mid-December, Terrin had his pedigree chart, and in late January he was approved to play on the Czech team.

As Jason Cadek wrote in his article about this exciting search, "While the consulate does not do genealogy research, Marit gladly referred Terrin to us. I had the pleasure of working at the CGSI conference registration table with Marit in Kansas City (October 2025). We quickly agreed that it is critical for all Czech and Slovak organizations to work together, to support each other's missions." *Naše rodina*, pp. 34-35, March 2026, Vol. 38 No. 1



See a picture of Terrin Vavra as he celebrates a home run against South Korea on March 5, at the 2026 WBD game in Japan. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/sports/2026/03/06/baseball/japanese-baseball/czech-japan-baseball/>

Society International (CGSI). <https://cgsi.org>

After extensive searching, researchers at CGSI, including Library Chair Karen Cervený Cermak and CGSI President Jason Cadek, were able to trace Terrin's Vavra (a rather common name in Czechia) lineage to his great-great-grandfather Vaclav from the parish books of Běšiny and the 1880 Czech census for the village of Ůloh. Members of the family came from Bohemia to Wisconsin in the 1880s.

Patrick Dewane, playwright and actor of *The Accidental Hero*, is putting together a musical production of his grandfather's story as a window into freedom versus totalitarianism, *Freedom in the Square*. I was invited to a read-through on April 1 in a practice room at the Children's Theatre Company, Minneapolis. Patrick told me, "The musical was prompted by a long dinner with a friend, Hynek, who brought the Velvet Revolution to Domažlice, the Czech town where my grandfather was paraded as a liberator at the end of WWII. Hynek allowed me to record his story, and it is the peak story of the second act of my musical. About four years ago, I realized that all of my Czech friends, past a certain age, had lived through the Velvet Revolution, but I knew none of their stories. So I started talking to the living."



(L-R) Patrick Dewane (actor, playwright), Tinja Moulder (actor, director, choreographer), Dean Holt (actor), James Cada (actor, writer, native Czech speaker), Mark Benninghofen (stage, screen, radio actor), and Victor Zupanc (composer).

At the Flavors of Slovak Dinner at C.S.P.S. Hall on March 8, during a polka being played by Ryan Cihlar on his concertina for entertainment as dinner was being served, several diners at the Czech Honorary Consul's table got up to dance.

(L-R) Willa and her dad Matt Varilek, Austin Palma and Gabriella Stoudt, and Karen Varian and Matt's son enjoyed the opportunity to polka.



Honorary Consulate of the Czech Republic/
Minneapolis

Marit Lee Kucera, Honorary Consul
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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

Non-member *Slovo* subscription: \$25 annually. Please include name, address, phone number, and email address with a \$25 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* management team:** Mary Cahill, Doreen McKenney, Kelly Rynda, and Joyce Tesarek.
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Mailing/Email lists: Penny and Tom Tesarek.

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Production layout: Mary Kucera.

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Issue photographs, ads, or illustrations: Martina Gurgel, M.L. Kucera, Sally Lieberman, Doreen McKenney, Joyce Tesarek, and Jitka Sebek.

For more information: www.sokolmn.org

Sokol Minnesota Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for:

- **an accountant/treasurer**, a BOD position, familiar with Quickbooks, to attend two monthly meetings and work with Sokol's bookkeeper, contact: finance@sokolmn.org
- **a grant writer** to assist writing grants to support the C.S.P.S. Hall, contact: finance@sokolmn.org
- **woodworkers** to repair broken chairs contact: trustees@sokolmn.org
- Various positions for the **Czech & Slovak Festival, September 27** contact: festival@sokolmn.org

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

sokolmn.org

events@sokolmn.org

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

facebook.com/sokolminnesota



For Sokol's
Latest News!

Join the
E-blast List

Send your email address to
publicity@sokolmn.org



Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota *SLOVO* May 2026

EUROPE DAY 2026 European Friendship Ride

SATURDAY, MAY 9
www.sokolmn.org/eurobike26

European Friendship Ride

Saturday, May 9, 2026, the Kolo Sokol bike group will co-host a special 32-mile bike ride with the Alliance Française Minneapolis/St. Paul and the Germanic-American Institute in Saint Paul.

May 9 is recognized as Europe Day by the European Union as a day to celebrate the shared values and peaceful cooperation that unite the nations of Europe. This event is open to members and friends of all European American organizations in the area. The ride will be an opportunity to meet members of other organizations and briefly visit three host organization locations.

Participants need to register at
www.sokolmn.org/eurobike26

where you will also find more details on time and route. There is a \$15 fee for this event to support host organizations providing refreshments at the three stops. For more information: Steve.Ernest@sokolmn.org