



ASW Flyer December 2008

## AMERICAN SOKOL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

### MONTHLY MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008, 8:00 P.M.**

*at*

**St. Luke Orthodox Church,  
6801 Old Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA**

After a short business meeting, join us for conversation during a traditional social hour with soft drinks, coffee and snacks. Looking forward to seeing you there!

### MESSAGE FROM THE STAROSTA

I would like to invite everybody to our annual ST. NICHOLAS (MIKULASSKA) DINNER PARTY, which will be held on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 PM at St. Luke Orthodox Church, 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101. Also, I appeal to those who can contribute to our bake sale to please help us make it, and the whole event successful. In order for this to be possible, we need a lot of volunteers; we need people for the room setup and cleanup, ticket sales, handing out drinks and food, bake sale, food and pastry preparation, etc. If you would like to help make this event a success, please contact Sister Darina Tomkova via the Sokol email address: [sokol@sokolwashington.org](mailto:sokol@sokolwashington.org) or leave a voicemail message at (703) 759-1500. Saint Nicholas, accompanied by the Angel and Devil, will be distributing Christmas Bags of Goodies to the Children. Let us hope everybody, especially the kids, will have a good time.

On Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, our Sokol Washington Brothers Josef Cerny and Michal Starek handed over a World War II era letter to Jan Kratochvil, director of the Museum of Czech and Slovak Exiles of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (see museum information at the end of the newsletter). The letter was penned by Jan Masaryk; then Czechoslovak Foreign Minister in exile. Jan Masaryk's letter was a donation to the museum from our own Sister Kathleen Kaspar-Paty. This transfer coincided with the live television coverage of the official opening of the museum and reception. The Premier of the Czech Republic, Miroslav Topolanek, Ambassadors Jiri Grusa (Austria), Juraj Chmiel (Australia), Education Minister Ondrej Liska, and Czech Police Museum Director, Marcela Machutova, were all in attendance.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Nazdar!

Br. Jan Kocvara,  
President, American Sokol Washington, DC

**E-mail Address** – Our E-mail address is [sokol@sokolwashington.org](mailto:sokol@sokolwashington.org) Please let us know your E-mail address. If you don't have E-mail or can't access our web site then send us a written request and we will keep sending you a paper copy of our flyer.

[www.sokolwashington.org](http://www.sokolwashington.org)



### Regular December EVENTS



**Mondays,** Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22  
**Junior and Senior Volleyball:** 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

**Fridays,** Dec. 5, 12, 19  
**Czech/Slovak School for Children:** 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
**Gymnastics for Children** 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.  
**Adult Aerobics** 8:15 to 9:30 p.m.

**Saturday,** Dec. 20  
**Czech/Slovak pre-School for tots:** 10:00 to 12:00 a.m.



Volleyball, Gymnastics, Adult Aerobics and the Czech and Slovak School is held at the Wood Acres Elementary School, 5800 Cromwell DR, Bethesda, MD. The Pre-School is held at St. Luke Orthodox Church Hall, 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA.

For more information call Br. Tony Bartos – (703) 395.1071, Br. Pavel Klein – (301) 424.1658 or Br. Milos Toth – (301) 585.8534

### ADDITIONAL DECEMBER EVENTS

<b>December 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St. Nicholas Party for Children</b>	Party for children and adults allowing you to enjoy great food, meet St. Nick, the angel, the devil, and giving you and your children ample opportunity to tell if you have been "naughty or nice..." All volunteers for the bake sale or any other form of help during this annual event please contact Sis. Darina Tomkova via email: <a href="mailto:sokol@sokolwashington.org">sokol@sokolwashington.org</a> or leave her a voicemail message at (703) 759-1500
<b>December 27<sup>th</sup> - January 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Skiing</b>	Week-long skiing trip to Burke Mountain, Vt. For children +/- parents. - contact Br. Pavel Klein at: 301-424.1658
<b>Indoor Soccer League</b>		- Indoor Soccer Season is ongoing. Fans or prospective participants can come to watch or play at the Fairfax Sportsplex in Springfield, VA. Those interested should contact Br. Josef Cerny at 703-861-7039 or: <a href="mailto:bobescerny@msn.com">bobescerny@msn.com</a>

### Future - PLANNED EVENTS

<b>March-April</b>	<b>Sokol Volleyball Tournament</b>	- A traditional sporting event to be held at Sokol New York Hall in NYC, NY with Sokol units from other cities participating. Contact <a href="mailto:jdaniel@comcast.net">jdaniel@comcast.net</a> or <a href="mailto:babinak@aol.com">babinak@aol.com</a>
<b>March 28</b>	<b>Josefska Party</b>	- A traditional party for everyone. ASW welcomes volunteers to help organize this party. Should you be interested in helping to organized this party please do not hesitate to contact Br. Tibor Bartalos at <a href="mailto:tbartalos@sokolwashington.org">tbartalos@sokolwashington.org</a>

**DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE ABOVE PLANNED EVENTS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THIS FLYER AND ON THE SOKOL WEBSITE.**



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## MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

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Thanks to all Sokol Washington members who already submitted their 2008 dues. The membership dues are **\$29.00** per member and the **deadline** to submit Sokol Washington, D.C. membership dues was **March 31, 2008**.

You can also enroll for a Sokol Washington, D.C. **family membership** of **\$40.00** (the family membership includes all children age to 18).

New members also pay a one-time administrative fee **\$5.00**

Members, who did not pay the dues to date, please make your check payable to Sokol Washington, D.C., and mail it at your earliest convenience to our Financial Secretary:

**Br. Tibor Bartalos**  
**1001 3rd St., S.W., Apt. 705**  
**Washington, D.C. 20024**

*Your contributions to Sokol Washington, D.C. (501c3) are tax deductible.*

*Please give us your consideration when you are deciding on your end-of-year contributions.*

*The **United Way CFC designation code** for our unit is **5043**.*

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## Czech and Slovak School Update

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In addition to the regular Czech and Slovak language classes that began Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, the children are learning Czech, Slovak and Moravian Christmas carols (koledy), to sing for Svaty Mikulas (St. Nicholas) on December 6<sup>th</sup>, during the Mikulaska Party this Saturday. Classes are held from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, and afterwards, most of the children move on to the gymnasium for Sokol Gymnastics classes. Please contact: Simona Merchant-Dest ([simonamd@comcast.net](mailto:simonamd@comcast.net), 301-528-8278) or Michele Perschbacher ([mperschbacher@verizon.net](mailto:mperschbacher@verizon.net), 703-455-3686) for more information and being included on the "Skola" e-mail list.

On Saturdays, the "Skolka," or Czech and Slovak play groups for children in the "under 4 year-old age group," continues to function, with new families being added each week. Please contact: Jan Bartos (703-283-8915, [john.l.bartos@gmail.com](mailto:john.l.bartos@gmail.com)) or Martina Sestak (703-470-0511, [martinasestak@yahoo.com](mailto:martinasestak@yahoo.com)) for more information and being included on the "Skolka" e-mail list.

Anyone interested in more information about the school (Skola), play group (Skolka), or Sokol activities, in general, can contact Br. Tony Bartos at 703-395-1071.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE EDUCATOR – Czechoslovak Liberators: Stefanik

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Another important person who significantly contributed to the establishment of independent Czechoslovakia in the fall of 1918 was Milan Rastislav Stefanik. The prominent scientist and general was born on July 21, 1880 in Kosariska, Slovakia. He studied astronomy, mathematics, physics and philosophy in Prague and received a doctorate of philosophy in 1904. During his studies, he met Tomas Garrigue Masaryk who introduced him to the idea of cooperation of Czechs and Slovaks against the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Stefanik also wrote many articles informing Czechs about the disastrous situation of Slovaks struggling against Magyarization.



After his studies, Stefanik went to France where he joined the staff of the astronomical observatory at Meudon. He presented many scientific works to the French Academy of Sciences and became a prominent astronomer who served on scientific expeditions to Africa, the Americas, and Oceania.

Becoming a naturalized French citizen, he joined the French military after the outbreak of World War I. He went through pilot training and was deployed to the front in May 1915. During the same year, Stefanik was also drawn into the Czechoslovak liberation movement. He contacted Masaryk and mediated his meeting with the French Prime Minister and other prominent politicians. He became a vice-chairman of the Czechoslovak independence movement and helped to organize Czechoslovak resistance abroad. Between 1916 and 1918, Stefanik played an essential role in creating Czechoslovak legions in Russia, France and Italy. He also promoted the Czechoslovak cause in many other countries, including the United States, and later became minister of war in the provisional Czechoslovak government.



In November 1918, Stefanik arrived in Vladivostok, Russia, and started to organize the legionaries' return home. On his way back to Europe, he attended the Paris Peace Conference where he used his diplomatic skills to promote Czechoslovak interests. In May 1919, he left Paris and intended to fly to Slovakia via Italy. Unfortunately, he never reached his homeland alive. He died in a plane crash near Ivanka pri Dunaji on May 4, 1919.

Br. Vaclav Vlcek

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## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**ASW is still looking for volunteers** willing to help with children gymnastics. Those interested, please contact Br. Pavel Klein at 301.424.1658, [kleinp@epilepsydc.com](mailto:kleinp@epilepsydc.com), Br. Milos Toth at (301) 585.8534, [mtoth@BroadViewNet.com](mailto:mtoth@BroadViewNet.com) or Br. Tony Bartos at 703-395-1071, [babinak@aol.com](mailto:babinak@aol.com).

**Sokol Washington, D.C. Libor Kozak Fund** [www.liborkozak.com](http://www.liborkozak.com) - a special "Thank you!" to all who already contributed.

**The St Luke Sisterhood** is having their Christmas bake sale on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> of December, from 10:00AM to 4:00PM at the St. Luke Orthodox Church, 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101. All items are homemade by the ladies and include Serbian, Russian, Greek, and Italian pastries, cakes, cookies, strudels, pies, and other delights to tempt the pallet. (Maybe even a few Czech and Bulgarian goodies as well). There will be homemade dough nuts and coffee in the morning.

**Czechoslovak Interdenominational Services** will hold a Czechoslovak Christmas service on Sunday, December 21, 3:00 PM at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 7730 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, MD. We will sing Czech and Slovak Christmas carols; wish each other season's greetings during a short reception which will follow the service.



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**Invasion 68: Prague, Photographs by Josef Koudelka** will be exhibited through December 28. For more information, see:

[http://www.american.edu/academic.depts/cas/katzen/museum/2008nov\\_koudelka.cfm](http://www.american.edu/academic.depts/cas/katzen/museum/2008nov_koudelka.cfm)

**Czechoslovak Happy Hour** – a social gathering of Czech and Slovak community and friends. Feel free to obtain more info at <http://cshappyhour.net/index.html>

**The Washington Czech Language and Slovak Language Meetup Groups** at <http://czech.meetup.com/126/> and <http://slovak.meetup.com/34/> and **Northern Virginia Meetup Group** <http://czech.meetup.com/154/>

**Something for Moms in Loudoun County, VA**, is a group of moms (Mamicky, Maminky, Moms), at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MamickyMaminkyMoms/>, and e-mail is: [MamickyMaminkyMoms@yahoogroups.com](mailto:MamickyMaminkyMoms@yahoogroups.com). If you would like to participate in our group, contact Livia via e-mail at: [gerlach.tatry@gmail.com](mailto:gerlach.tatry@gmail.com).

**Moravian and Slovak Folksongs** – For those of you who enjoy Moravian and Slovak Folklore, Radio Jih, in southern Moravia, has added 24/7 cimbalom music to its online broadcast; available at: <http://www.play.cz/radio-jih-cimbalka>

**Museum of Czech and Slovak Exiles (see below)** – Prior to its recent official opening on November 29<sup>th</sup> by Premier Miroslav Topolanek, Exile Museum personnel organized an exhibition at the EU in Brussels, commemorating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Czech and Slovak liberation. Miroslav Neovesky and Vaclav Vlcek, two Sokol Washington members, both of whom spoke at the Czech and Slovak Liberation commemoration held on October 25<sup>th</sup>, contributed research material towards this effort. Brs. Vlcek and Bartos are in the process of bringing this exhibition to the United States after it concludes its stay in Brussels.

### **Museum of Czech and Slovak Exiles – 20<sup>th</sup> century**

The Museum of Czech and Slovak Exiles from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, located in Brno at 22 Štefánik Street, wishes to inform all exiles of Czech and Slovak origin around the world of its founding, and is asking them for their collaboration and support.

The Museum was founded with cooperation from the daughter of General Maurice Pellé, cofounder of the Czechoslovak Republic, in addition collaboration with relatives of General Milan R. Štefánik, with Jiří Ingr – son of Czechoslovak army general Sergej Ingr, also Company "Nazdar" (former members and relatives of the WW I army unit in Paris, specifically their President General J. Flipo). This was also complemented with parts of Dr. Alice Masaryk archives, daughter of our liberator President Tomáš G. Masaryk, from inherited correspondence and papers of university professor Dr. Josef Kratochvil, PhD., a colleague of Dr. Masaryk during the founding of Czechoslovak Schools in exile. Additional sources of information and support came from Pavel Tygrid, the Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (Společností pro vědy a umění) in the USA, the Orel organization in exile, individual Sokols, Czechoslovak Legionnaires in Canada, with their Chairman Col. B. Moravec, the family of Major Antonín Bartoš – the National Social party parliamentarian and member of the WW II CLAY-EVA parachute group, journalist Stanislav Berton in



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Australia, hockey player Oleg Zábrodský and other Czech and Slovak exile organizations and societies. Additionally, through its association with the Society for Culture and Dialogue (K2001), the Exile Museum works in conjunction with the National Museum in Prague and the Slovak National Museum in Martin on Czechoslovak exile exhibits, the Slovak National Library in Martin, represented by Peter Cabadaj, the Bureau for the Documentation and Investigation of Communist Crimes, present day EU parliamentarians, Czech Republic Police Museum and other institutions and individuals around the world. Exhibits about the Czech and Slovak exiles were held under the auspices of Czech and Slovak Presidents, Václav Havel, now Václav Klaus, the President of the Slovak Republic, Ivan Gašparovič, and earlier President R. Schuster.

In addition to serving as a permanent exhibition center dedicated to the exiles in Brno on 22 Štefánik Street, the Exile Museum will also accept, store and collate archives of exiles, it will also support production of documentary films about exiles for Czech Television, store audio-visual records of interviews, material from previous exile exhibits from around the world and other publications concerning the exiles (there have been several publications and films made on the exile theme). The Museum leadership has put on ten's of exhibits around the world. Specifically, in Australia and Israel, the exhibits were in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, represented by the Minister of Culture and the National Library of Luxemburg, the Principality of Lichtenstein – in Prague, with the participation of his Excellency Duke Alois of Lichtenstein and her Royal Highness the Princess of Bavaria. The exile exhibits were also supported by the Foreign Ministry of the Czech Republic, as well as individual Czech diplomatic personnel from Argentina, Belgium, Poland, Hungary, Israel, France, Australia, and Germany; also the "Czech Centers" around the world, The Czech Ministry of Culture, the City of Brno, the Southern Moravian Regional District, and other institutions. Exile exhibitions in the European Parliament in Brussels were under the patronage, financial support and participation of Petr Duchoň, Jan Zahradil, Nina Škottová, Jaroslav Zvěřina, Oldřich Vlasák and other members of the European Parliament.

The Exile Museum collects and consolidates as much information as possible about the exiles for educational purposes and donates its books and publications to schools at all educational levels. The Museum requests that exiles and their families send it all documents, papers, data and other source materials to support our work. Items such as identification documents from refugee camps, correspondence and old letters, photographs and any other audio-visual material, old newspapers and magazines, exile publications, books, personal diaries and other remnants are being sought. Chronicle records detailing exile club activities like Sokol, Orel, other sport or cultural groups and political organizations are wanted, as are all uniforms, flags, video records, including three-dimensional artifacts. All of this material is welcome and will be placed on exhibit for you to personally examine at the Exile Museum in Brno. Every item enables us to expand the existing exhibits, as well as associated activity about the exiles during this century.

On behalf of the Exile Museum in Brno, I thank you.

Jan Kratochvil OCM

Director, Museum of Czech and Slovak Exiles – 20<sup>th</sup> century

Stefanikova 22

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**"CZECH AND SLOVAK THEATRE ABROAD"** edited by Vera Borkovec - the book is a historical document dealing with Czech and Slovak theatre in the USA, Canada, Australia and England. There is a chapter by Vera Borkovec about Czech and Slovak theatre in the USA since the 19th century and about Czech Marionette theatre in America by the well-known puppeteer Vít Horejš. More comprehensive chapters about theatre in Canada are by Markéta Goetz-Stankiewicz and by Josef Cermák, respectively, and specifically about Toronto's New Theatre is the chapter by Frank Safertal and Pavel Král, while actor-director Josef Skála writes about Vancouver's Theatre Around the Corner.

Oliver Fiala has put together a chapter about Czech and Slovak theatre in Australia, with emphasis on the Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney regions. Milan Kocourek deals with the émigré theatre in London.

The book has 128 pages of text and about 70 pages of illustrations from various productions.

The beautiful jacket has been designed by the Czech-American graphic artist Líba Puchmajer.

The book can be ordered from the editor-distributor Vera Borkovec ([aborkovec@comcast.net](mailto:aborkovec@comcast.net)) at 12013 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902-1515. Payment must be by check in U.S. dollars and made payable to SVU. The price of each book is \$20.

For shipment by airmail (the ground shipment is no longer available), you must add:

\$5 for USA = \$25

\$6 for Canada = \$26

\$10 for all other countries = \$30.