



ASW Flyer February 2009

AMERICAN SOKOL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, February 4th, 2009, 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

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lately, our Sokol unit has expanded the number of activities it sponsors or organizes directly. As usual, this has been accompanied by some growing pains. I would therefore urge everyone not overreact, keep our heads cool and stick to the Sokol tradition of tolerance, cooperation, and respect for each other. This way, I am convinced we can overcome all the difficulties that may crop up and keep our unit strong.

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

E-mail Address – Our E-mail address is 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.

† Father Joseph Kadlec, S.J. died on November 2, 2008 at Manresa Hall Jesuit Community, Philadelphia, PA, where he resided. Father's health had been declining for the last several months. His funeral took place at Georgetown University and burial at Woodstock, MD. Father Kadlec was outstanding in his devotion and accomplishments, we will miss him.



MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

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, 2009**.

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**.*

Regular February EVENTS



Mondays,	Feb. 2, 9, and 23 Junior and Senior Volleyball:	8:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Fridays,	Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27 Czech/Slovak School for Children: Gymnastics for Children Adult Aerobics	7:00 to 8:00 p.m. 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. 8:15 to 9:30 p.m.

Czech/Slovak pre-School for tots will resume on Saturdays in March 2009



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 February EVENTS

Tuesdays, February 3, 10, 17, and 24	Indoor Soccer League	- 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: bobescerny@msn.com for exact playing times.
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Feb. 14 	31st Annual Baca Cup International Invitational Ski Race	- this annual downhill ski race and party for everyone, will take place on Saturday Feb. 14, 2009 at the Blue Knob Ski Resort (near to New Bedford) located in Claysburg, PA. Details will be available on the website www.bacacup.com . To register in advance please contact Dasha (Dashafletcher@yahoo.com) or Carl Fletcher (CWFletcher@mris.com). For additional information and directions to the Blue Knob Ski resort, please contact the resort directly at 800-458.3403 or 814-239.5111.
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Future - PLANNED EVENTS

March 28	Josefska Party	- 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 tbartalos@sokolwashington.org
March-April	Sokol Volleyball Tournament	- A traditional sporting event to be held at Sokol New York Hall in NYC, NY with Sokol units from other cities participating. Contact jdanihel@comcast.net or babinak@aol.com
May 16	St. Cyril and Methodius Slavic-American Festival/Dance	- Sokol Washington, together with the St. Luke Orthodox Church committee, will organize its second joint event. This is still very much in the planning stages. The proceeds will be split equally and the Sokol portion will be used to support the Czech and Slovak School Fund, under Sokol auspices. If you have suggestions or inquiries, please contact: bobescerny@msn.com , ph: 703-861-7039 or babinak@aol.com , ph: 703-395-1071

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

Czech and Slovak Play Group

The "Skolka," or Czech and Slovak play groups for children in the "under four year-old age group," that is held on Saturdays will resume meetings when it is a bit warmer in March. Please contact: Martina Sestak (703-470-0511, martinasestak@yahoo.com) or Jan Bartos (703-283-8915, john.l.bartos@gmail.com) for information and inclusion on the "Skolka" e-mail list.

Czech and Slovak School Activities Planned for this Spring

The Czech and Slovak School would like to inform you of its upcoming special events and activities planned from now until the end of the school year. Czech and Slovak language classes are held regularly on Fridays from 7:00 to 8:00 PM, and afterwards, most of the children move on to the gymnasium for optional Sokol Gymnastics classes,



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conducted from 8:00 to 10:00.

The following activities take place during the normal Friday lecture hour from 7 – 8pm unless otherwise noted:

February 13 – Czech/Slovak film for children (sponsored by Motylik Zofajova). (Please note that this activity will occur only if a film projector for a DVD player can be acquired. Perhaps it would be best if the children are not aware of this special activity ahead of time to avoid disappointment in the event that the necessary equipment cannot be secured.)

March 6 – Theater production for parents and adults

Each of the three classes is preparing a production for parents and any other interested parties during the normal lecture hour from 7 – 8pm. Please let us know if you are planning to attend so we will be able to plan for adequate seating. Feel free to bring grandparents, extended family, and friends – just let us know how many.

April 3 – Easter celebration

The children will decorate eggs, learn to weave “pomlázky” (Easter switches) and learn about various Easter customs in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. We ask parents to send several hard-boiled eggs with each child for decorating.

May 16 (Saturday) – Festival of Saints Cyril and Methodius: Slavic-American festival with food, dancing and fun for the whole family.

Location: St. Luke’s church (where the St. Nicholas party is held). This festival is currently in its planning phase and, therefore, no firm time is yet known, but save the date! We ask the parents for their cooperation in preparing for this event (contributing Czech and Slovak home-baked goods, providing raffle items, etc.), as this will be a FUNDRAISER for the Czech and Slovak School! Please extend the invitation to all your friends and relatives to come and support this fundraising effort!

We are also planning on having the children perform folk songs and dances at the Festival. Practice times for this production will be on Fridays from 8 – 8:30pm after the normal lecture hour. Please let us know if your child/children will be participating in this performance at the Festival and if they will be able to attend the practices at the above-stated time. Keep in mind that, ideally, the children themselves should have the desire to perform and learn the new songs and dances for this performance. Please contact us via email at simonamd@comcast.net or mperschbacher@verizon.net ASAP so that we may begin planning the program.

June 5 – End-of-the-year final examinations

June 12 – Distribution of exam results and report cards

Please note that the Czech and Slovak School does not currently have the necessary funding to continue operating until June. Our one fundraising activity will be the Festival of Saints Cyril and Methodius, and it is likely that we will require further grants and/or contributions. Anyone with contacts to organizations or individuals that would possibly be in a position to help the Czech and Slovak School obtain grant monies, please contact Br. Tony Bartos at babinak@aol.com or 703-395-1071. In the event of insufficient funds from fundraising efforts and grants, each family will be required to contribute to the overall funding of School operations.



Recently we had a slight increase in the number of Slovak students; however, more would be desirable for both groups (we are currently at about 23 children). If you know of other families that would like to send their children to Slovak or Czech classes, please let us know. If you have any other questions, comments, ideas or reminders, please do not hesitate to contact us at the email addresses above.

Thank you,
Simona Merchant-Dest and Michelle Perschbacher

MESSAGE FROM THE EDUCATOR – Czechoslovak Liberators: Benes

Edvard Benes was another important individual who significantly contributed to the establishment of the independent Czechoslovak state in the fall of 1918. After studying at Prague, Paris, and Dijon, Beneš received a doctorate of laws in 1908 and taught at the Prague Commercial Academy and the Czech University of Prague before World War I. Influenced by the nationalist ideas of Tomáš Masaryk, who wished to liberate the Czechs and Slovaks from Austrian rule, Beneš followed his mentor to Switzerland during World War I and then established himself in Paris. With Masaryk and the Slovak leader Milan Štefánik, Beneš formed a propaganda organization that eventually became a Czechoslovak provisional government on Oct. 14, 1918. With the collapse of Austria-Hungary in November 1918, a new Czechoslovak state was quickly formed. As



foreign minister, a post he was to retain until 1935, Beneš headed his country's delegation to the Paris Peace Conference in 1919 and championed the League of Nations throughout the interwar period, serving as its Council chairman six times. Opposed to plans for union between Austria and Germany (after World War I and again in 1931), which he deemed a threat to Czechoslovakia's continued existence; he attempted to reestablish a balance of power in eastern Europe. To fill the partial power vacuum created by the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, Beneš negotiated the treaties with Romania and Yugoslavia (1921) that formed the Little Entente, originally aimed at revisionist Hungary. France joined in 1924, and thereafter the alliance became a bloc against Germany and, to a lesser extent, the Soviet Union. In 1935, however, he signed a mutual assistance pact between his country and the Soviet Union.

With the resignation of Masaryk as president in 1935, Beneš was elected to that office. Relations with Poland and Germany, never amicable, steadily worsened. Though he granted substantially the first Sudetenland German autonomy demands in 1938, he was nevertheless unable to avert the crisis that led to the destruction of the Czechoslovak state. Abandoned by his allies, Beneš capitulated before the German ultimatum, and his country lost the Sudetenland in September 1938. Poland soon occupied the disputed Teschen area. Resigning on Oct. 5, 1938, Beneš went into exile. After the outbreak of World War II he established in France a Czechoslovak national committee, which moved to London in 1940. Reestablishing a government on his native soil on April 3, 1945, Beneš entered Prague on May 16 to the



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enthusiastic welcome of the population. His was the only eastern European exile government to be allowed to return after the war. Nevertheless, Beneš realized that Czechoslovakia had to cooperate closely with the Soviet Union. Increasingly ill, he suffered two strokes in 1947. When his Communist prime minister, Klement Gottwald, demanded on Feb. 25, 1948, that Beneš accept a Communist-dominated cabinet, he again had no choice but to capitulate. Refusing to sign the new constitution, he resigned on June 7, 1948. Having witnessed the apparent suicide of his lifelong friend Jan Masaryk (son of Tomáš Masaryk) a few months earlier, Beneš died a broken man in 1948. His unfinished *Memoirs: From Munich to New War and New Victory* appeared in English in 1954. (Article reproduced from Encyclopedia Britannica)

Provided by Br. Vaclav Vlcek

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASW is still looking for volunteers willing to help with children gymnastics and the aerobics classes. Those interested, please contact Pavla Cornejo at 301-693-3169, Br. Pavel Klein at 301.424.1658, kleinp@epilepsydc.com, Br. Milos Toth at (301) 585.8534, mtoth@BroadViewNet.com or Br. Tony Bartos at 703-395-1071, babinak@aol.com.

Sokol Washington, D.C. Libor Kozak Fund www.liborkozak.com - a special "Thank you!" to all who already contributed.

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. If you would like to participate in our group, contact Livia via e-mail at: 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>

Czech Films at the **Avalon Theater** www.theavalon.org as a part of "Lions of Czech Film Series":

Feb. 11, 2009, 8PM - **Vaclav** (Dir. Jiri Vejdelek, 2007, 97 minutes)

March 25, 2009, 8PM - **Echoes of One World Film Festival**

(Opening night! Czech documentary screening of **Gyumri**)

April 8, 2009, 8PM - **Little Girl Blue** (Dir. Alice Nellis, 2007, 93 minutes)

May 13, 2009, 8PM - **Marbles** (Kulicky) (Dir. Olga Dabrowska, 2008, 75 minutes)

June 10, 2009, 8PM - **Lost Holiday** (Ztracena Dovolena) (Dir. Lucie Králová, 2007, 84 minutes)



Brussels exhibit of the Museum of Czech and Slovak Exiles (see below) to US

– For the occasion of the Czech Republic assuming the EU Presidency in Brussels, the Museum of Czech and Slovak Exiles in Brno was asked to prepare an exhibit that pertained primarily to the liberation of the Czechs and Slovaks from Austro-Hungarian rule on October 28-30, 1918. Brs. Vlcek and Neovesky, of Sokol Washington, helped with preparation of material for this exhibit. Currently, 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 – 20th century

The Museum of Czech and Slovak Exiles from the 20th 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 Kratochvíl, PhDr., 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 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



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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 – 20th century

Stefanikova 22

602 00 Brno

Czech Republic, Europe

(Tel. no.: 011-420-603-552-351)

(email: muzeumexil@muzeumexil.cz)

NOTE: Are you planning to visit the Museum of Czech and Slovak Exiles?

Please arrange your visit in advance via e-mail or phone number listed above.

“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) 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.