



ASW Flyer March 2009

AMERICAN SOKOL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

MONTHLY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, March 4th, 2009, 8:00 P.M.

at

**Little Falls Library,
5501 Massachusetts Ave.
Bethesda, MD 20816**

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,

As our gym activities for children seem to be getting more popular, I would urge everybody to make sure that everything is done to prevent an accident from happening. And, in case it does happen, to have the necessary legal and non-legal protection in place, both for individuals, and the Sokol Washington organization. I realize everybody is pressed for time, but these are litigious times and it would be a wise decision to familiarize oneself with the requirements of supervising children safely in the gym. One never knows.

Nazdar!

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

<p>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.</p>
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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**.*

31st Annual Baca Cup International Invitational Ski Race

This annual downhill ski race and party, took place on Valentine's Day Feb. 14, 2009 at the Blue Knob Ski Resort (near to New Bedford) located in Claysburg, PA. Congratulations go out to our 2009 Bača Cup winners Mike Cruz and Aden Lessiak of the record 98 skiers registered. The competition was extremely close this year and there were some terrific times. We also wish to (once again) congratulate Tomas Pavlicek for his Ambassadors Cup Victory as fastest European Skier, and recognize Reiner Lessiak for his "Life Time Achievement Award".

We also wish to offer a very special thank you to Ambassador Petr Kolar, of the Czech Embassy, Washington, D.C. for taking time away from his busy schedule to participate in our race. It was great fun to have Ambassador Kolar ski with us, join us for our awards gathering and help us by presenting the "Ambassador's Cup" to this years winner. In addition we also thank Petr Janousek who is currently serving with the Czech Mission at the United Nations in coming all the way from New York City to participate. As you may be aware, the Czech Republic has assumed the Presidency of the EU for 2009 and is now leading the way in European Relations. Truly, the Bača Cup Race is a shining example of "Euro-American Relations" and with our core group of volunteers and all of the excellent ski racers involved it just keeps getting better.

2009 Bača Cup Champions!

Men's Alpine:	Michael Cruz
Women's Alpine:	Aden Lessiak
Ambassador's Cup:	Tomas Pavlicek
Men's Snowboard:	Adam Belmont
Women's Snowboard:	Paula Bartosiewicz



Regular March EVENTS



Mondays,

March 6, 13, 20, and 27
Junior and Senior Volleyball: 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Fridays,

March 2, 16, 23, and 30
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.

Czech/Slovak pre-School - Contact John Bartos: john.l.bartos@gmail.com



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 March 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
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Tuesdays, March	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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Future - PLANNED EVENTS

April 25	Sokol Volleyball Tournament	- A traditional tournament, held once a year, alternatively hosted by Sokol Washington and Sokol New York. This year it will be held at Sokol New York Hall in NYC, NY with Sokol units from other cities participating. Sleeping accommodations (albeit Spartan) are available directly within the Hall. For more details contact either Bros. Danihel jdanihel@comcast.net (703-655-5903) or Bartos babinak@aol.com (703-395-1071).
May 10	Jiri Parma Memorial Sokol Tennis Tournament	- This annual all-day event will once again be held at Bluemont Park, in Arlington, VA. Registration is at 9:30 AM, the Tournament commences at 9:00 AM sharp. Tell your friends to join in at this open fun event. Contact Brother Igor Labuda for more information at: islabuda@msn.com
May 16	Sts. 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 in the planning stages. The proceeds will be divided equally and <u>the Sokol portion will support the Czech and Slovak School Fund</u> , under Sokol auspices. Volunteers with 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

We are currently looking for an instructor to lead the Czech/Slovak pre-School age program. If you are aware of anyone who can lead youngsters in songs and activities, please contact John Bartos at john.l.bartos@gmail.com. If you are interested in participating in the program, please send your contact information to John Bartos.

Czech and Slovak School Spring Activities Update

We are pleased to announce that the Czech/Slovak film activity did go on as planned, thanks to the efforts of Motylik Zofajova and Marketa Jenesova. The children enjoyed



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a variety of Czech and Slovak short films, such as "A Je To," "Mach a Sebestova," "Ferda Mravenec" and "Spejbl a Hurvinek." We hope to arrange another film showing in the future.

The Czech and Slovak School would like to update you on its 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, conducted from 8:00 to 10:00.

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

March 6 – Theater production for parents and adults

Each of the three classes (1 Slovak, 2 Czech) is preparing a production for parents and any other interested parties during the normal lecture hour from 7 to 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 as many grandparents, extended family, and friends, as you wish – 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. This will be held at St. Luke Church (where the St. Nicholas party is held). This festival is in planning phases, 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 and our school! 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 may be required to contribute to the overall funding of School operations.



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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 28 children, total). 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

FROM THE EDUCATOR – American Support for Czechoslovak Independence

Throughout the course of World War I, the Czechoslovak struggle for independence earned genuine sympathy among many prominent Americans of non-Czech and Slovak descent. Many Americans became interested in the fate of both Slavic nations desiring political autonomy from Austria-Hungary, and engaged in active support of the Czechoslovak cause. Americans provided valuable assistance to the newly formed independence movement and enthusiastically promoted the efforts of the Czechoslovak National Council led by Tomas G. Masaryk. Their support of the liberation movement empowered the independence efforts of Czechs and Slovaks, and significantly contributed to the establishment of an autonomous Czechoslovak state in the fall of 1918.

The most active and important supporter of the Czechoslovak cause was Charles R. Crane, a wealthy industrialist, diplomat and passionate philanthropist from Chicago. Crane, the head of the Crane Plumbing and Manufacturing Company, was an avid admirer of Slavic culture who was genuinely interested in the affairs of Slavic people. He encouraged learning about the Slavic nations by funding the School of Slavonic Studies at the University of Chicago, and often traveled to Central and Eastern Europe. During one of his trips in late 1890's, Crane met with Tomas G. Masaryk and invited him to lecture at the university. Masaryk accepted the invitation and arrived in the United States during the summer 1902. He taught a course in Czech history and became increasingly close to his patron. Crane and Masaryk formed a close relationship which later became a strong and valuable friendship that played an important role during the quest for Czechoslovak independence.

After the outbreak of World War I, Crane became an enthusiastic supporter of the Czechoslovak independence efforts. As early as 1914, the Chicago industrialist provided generous financial support to Masaryk who was at that time beginning to form the Czechoslovak independence movement. Crane also promoted the Czechoslovak struggle for independence during the imprisonment of Alice Masaryk, the daughter of Tomas G. Masaryk, who was arrested on the charge of high treason as a revenge for her father's political activity abroad. After her arrest by Austro-Hungarian authorities in the fall of 1915, Crane vowed to "do anything in the world" to publicize her case in the United States and instigate her release from the prison. He began a vigorous campaign on her behalf to create a public disapproval with the actions of Austro-Hungarian authorities. He informed several newspapers and news agencies, including the *New York Times* and *Chicago Tribune*, about the plight of Miss Masaryk that resulted in a series of articles informing the American public about her case and the Bohemian liberation movement. Crane also appealed directly to the Austrian Chancellor, and with the support of various Bohemian organizations and women's movements based in the United States, requested intervention of the U. S. Department of State. The government of the United States became involved in the Alice Masaryk case and lobbied on her behalf until her release in August 1916.



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Crane's efforts to publicize the case of Miss Masaryk in the United States educated the American public about the Bohemian aspirations for political autonomy. Many Americans began to view the Habsburg Empire as an oppressor of the Czechs and Slovaks, and realized the two nations deserved to gain political independence and American support.

Charles R. Crane also promoted the idea of independent Czechoslovak state at the highest levels of the United States Government. His close relationship to Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of the United States, enabled him to influence the President's attitudes towards Masaryk and the independence movement. Crane acted as an auxiliary and introduced Masaryk to many influential people within the U.S. Government including Robert Lansing, the Secretary of State, and Edward M. House, Wilson's close advisor on foreign policy. Crane also urged the President to meet with the leader of the Czechoslovak independence movement and sent Wilson several letters on Masaryk's behalf. One of the letters described Masaryk as "the wisest and most influential Slav of our day" and asked the President to "set aside a little time for a talk" with him. Crane's efforts to arrange a meeting between the two statesmen were successful, and significantly helped Masaryk to promote the Czechoslovak cause and gain support of the U.S. Government in spring 1918.

Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th President of the United States who served between 1901 and 1909, was another important supporter of Czechoslovak independence during World War I. The former President was the first public figure in the United States who called for the breakup of Austria-Hungary and the liberation of her subject people. During the first three years of the war, he strongly opposed Wilson's role as a peacemaker and his neutrality-based foreign policy. Roosevelt loudly criticized the President and vigorously campaigned for a declaration of war on Germany and Austria-Hungary. In August 1917, he met with General Milan Rastislav Stefanik, the Vice-President of the Czechoslovak National Council, and promised him to publicly support the Czechoslovak cause. Roosevelt strongly sympathized with the liberation movement and declared his support in several speeches and statements. In one of his editorials published in the *Kansas City Star*, he expressed his thoughts about the future of Czech and Slovak people after the war, and wrote "the splendid Czechs....must at the end of this war be rewarded by seeing an independent Czech-Slovak commonwealth established." He also contributed to the Czechoslovak independence by supporting the Czechoslovak Legion in Siberia which he saw as a symbol of exceptional courage and heroism. He sent a thousand dollars to the American Consul at Vladivostok, addressed to "the Czechoslovaks, the extraordinary nature of whose great and heroic feat is literally unparalleled, so far as I know, in ancient or modern warfare."

John Gutzon Borglum was a distinguished American artist and sculptor who also supported the independence efforts of Czechs and Slovaks during World War I. Borglum, the author of famous Mount Rushmore National Memorial, contributed to the Czechoslovak cause by providing training facilities and raising money for hundreds of Czech and Slovak soldiers preparing for their deployment to France. The volunteers camped and trained on his property in Stamford, Connecticut, known as "Camp Borglum," prior to their deployment to the front. Borglum financially aided the Czechoslovak soldiers by selling his own art and organizing a fundraiser that netted fifteen hundred dollars. The American artist also contributed to the establishment of independent Czechoslovakia by helping Tomas G. Masaryk edit the Czechoslovak Declaration of Independence in October 1918.

Provided by Br. Vaclav Vlcek

(The original article prepared for the EU exhibit, complete with references, is available from Bros. Vlcek at: wlcck2@gmail.com or Bartos babinak@aol.com)



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.

Blues Alley www.bluesalley.com will present four internationally renowned Czech jazz musicians as part of a new **Czech Jazz Series**:

- March 11, 8 and 10 pm (two shows): **Rudy Linka**, www.rudylinka.com
- March 18, 8 and 10 pm (two shows): **Karel Ruzicka, Jr.**, www.karelruzickajr.com
- March 24, 8 and 10 pm (two shows): **Pavel Ryba and The Fish Men**, www.pjryba.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": Wednesday, March 25 @ 8pm - one night only, Czech Lions: GYUMRI, Organized by the Czech NGO People in Need, One World takes place annually in Prague under the auspices of former president Václav Havel.

Brussels exhibit of the Museum of Czech and Slovak Exiles (see below) to US – We are in the process of collaborating with ASO and other organizations, to help bring this exhibit to the US. 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, for the occasion of the Czech Republic assuming the EU Presidency in Brussels. Brs. Vlcek and Neovesky, of Sokol Washington, helped with preparation of material for this exhibit.

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



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archives, daughter of our liberator President Tomáš G. Masaryk, from inherited correspondence and papers of university professor Dr. Josef Kratochvíl, 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 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 Kratochvíl OCM

Director, Museum of Czech and Slovak Exiles – 20th century

Štefanikova 22

602 00 Brno

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

Czech Republic, Europe

(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.



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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) 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.