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Happy New Year 2017 - Message from Starosta



I would like to wish you a healthy and prosperous 2017. We are one year older and perhaps a little bit wiser. I was thinking about a topic for this 'new year wish' article. Should I write long sentences about our achievements for the past year? For example: An average of 60 children have been participating every Friday in our Czech/Slovak one hour language classes where they practiced our native languages so that they would not only understand what their parents and grandparents are trying to tell them but

also could write in our complicated languages; during those classes they have even been learning the history of our two lovely nations. Right after language classes ended another children activity began; most of the children that attended language classes now dance and sing in our folk group Sokolik (what a pleasure to watch them and their instructor Marina during those practices) and after the folk dancing and singing end around 9pm, if the children still had enough energy they could discharge it in the gym.

Or, maybe I should I write about our attractive and popular annual events such as the week-long children/parents summer camp in wild West Virginia woods, Libora Kozaka bike memorial, pediatric

those long sentences all the way to the end? Maybe yes, maybe no. However instead of about writing about Sokol achievements for the past year, I came up with the topic that I think might have a bigger chance of keeping your attention and keeping your eyes browsing sentence by sentence until the very end. I had a dentist appointment a few months ago. While I was sitting on a gauche in a waiting room, I opened one of the several magazines dedicated for this purpose (to be opened by the person waiting for his/her appointment). There was an article about a man who dedicated his life to birds, all kind of birds. His favorite birds were cormorants such are eagles, owls, falcons but he likes to spend his time also with other bird type of species such are parrots, pigeons, and chickens. (Am I going to write about the gallant bird falcon? Sorry not this time). At the end of the article the author describes typical behaviors of those birds. For example chickens: If you would like to raise chickens you should have at least two of them. If you would decide to have only one, single chicken you would make her life miserable. Chickens like to be in a group. They are happy within a company of other chickens. What is interesting, though, is that they peck each other (peck or even bully). They establish pecking order among themselves. I personally have been farming chickens for few years. When younger chickens join older hens, the older one pecks the younger chickens. When younger gets older and new generation of chickens joins them, they do the same: peck younger one. I try to give them food separately. I built two separate bars inside of the hen-shed so they would naturally separate themselves and would not peck each other... but no, they still peck each other; mainly older peck younger but not exclusively. The interesting thing is that the chicken that is pecked is not getting back on the pecker.

You might wonder why I have chosen to talk/write about birds, chickens, and their pecking tendencies. Your intuition is correct: because we, humans have a few similarities with those species. We also like to be part of a certain group. Many researches are suggesting that being part of a group is one the most important part of our happiness. Loneliness is not good for us; we want to belong to a group of other humans. Similarly, as chickens, we don't want to be alone, and as they do, when we are in the group we peck... Yes we peck each other. Come to some of our volleyball practice and (God forbid) you spoil a pass; you might feel on your skin what human pecking looks like. You might hear sarcastic "vyborne!" (= perfectly done!) or not as much sarcastic: "kurva ako to hras!" (I rather not to translate this). Actually this might be kind of "OK" pecking. Here is a comparison to what you might hear in a group of polite Americans if you spoil a pass: "Good try..." or "good play, good play" for your mediocre performance. So what is better: pecking or polite praising not reflecting reality? Pecking might help the players to perform better... but in some cases it might discourage players from coming to play, sometimes, players might refuse to play with each other in the same team. This is how I am observing our human pecking in our Sokol volleyball practices. And again I don't think this is too bad. The main reason why I started to write about this is because there is little bit more serious pecking than I would say "friendly" volleyball pecking. It is our general human pecking that exists among us and is hurting our organization because on one hand we might not realize that we are pecking (meaning pecking that hurts) and on another hand we want to return the peck; we want to peck even harder so a person who started would "learn the lesson". ... and pecking continues... and it's negatively affecting our organization. We do our work as volunteers. Nobody is paying us for our work and we do it because (from time to time) we find rewards from our volunteer work. For example, the moments when we see bright, smiley eyes in our kids while they are performing in our Sokolik group. So on one hand we want our organization to thrive; on another hand we are making our own work less enjoyable. You are reading this and my wonder "who is he talking about?" The answer is you. Stop and think for a moment. Go through your 2016 moment; search in your memory. Did you find such moment when you peck somebody? I did; few of them... Now how many of your pecks were friendly, non-harmful pecks? All of them? Really? OK, there were few that could cross the boundary of acceptable human behavior; yes they may have embarrassed the recipient of the peck and perhaps yourself as well. Did you apologize for your behavior? Was this apology performed just for the sake of apology? Pause, think again... meditate if you like to do that...

(American Sokol Washington DC members, its friends and supporters) to our 70-th anniversary. Yes our Washington DC Sokol unit was established in 1947. The names that we remember as the founders of our unit are: **John Valters, Frank Rosner, Zdenek Ptacek, Jerry Friedrich, Mildred Barcal, Frank Kracek, Jerry Kroutil**. The names that I would like to mention in this anniversary occasion are names of long time members, or friends of Sokol Washington who either are still among us or left us (but they remain in our memories) and to whom I would like express my gratitude for their long lasting work and for their contribution to American Sokol Washington DC organization. Those names in random order are: **Vaclav Slovak, Miroslav Neomesky, Jan Kocvara, Lucia Maruska Levendis, Milan Blaha, George Levendis, Jaroslav Kaspar Paty, Tanja Sturman, Pavel Klein, Peter Kukura, George Barak, Radoslav Kohlmayer, Antonin Bartos, Miroslav Honzak, Kathleen Paty, Danka Sablikova, Pavla Cervenkova, Jarka Zolmanova, Rita Kukura, Helenka Kanownik, Zuzana Steen, Michaela Kiss, Radka Herndon, Dagmar Merkova, Monica Rokus, Cara Honzak, Helena Cechurova, Andrea Kohlmayer, Oliver Gunovsky, Jarda Vondrich, Vojto Kebis, Jirka Splichal, Josef Kadlec, Igor Labuda, Hanka Vagnerova, Peter Knapp, Jonathan Altman, Tibor Bartalos, Ondrej Schneider, Michaela Erbenova, Eva Majerova, Michal Jarnik, Dagmar Pitelova, Matus Mudron, Robert Sestak, Pavel Tojsl, Jirka Danihel, Marina Belejkanicova, Robert Rehak**

Did I miss some name? If so my apology, please let me know which name I forgot to mention. I will correct that and will send thank you note to that person for her/his work.

On behalf of our ASW organization I would also like to express gratitude to SVU (Svaz Vedy a Umeni) for their ongoing support of our organization, mainly the grant which is designated for our Sokol Czech/Slovak language school. I would also like to thank Czech and Slovak embassies that graciously support not only our Sokol School program but also our children group Sokolik and out winter and summer camps.

At the beginning of the New Year we often try to come with some kind of resolutions. My New Year resolution is connected with this article: I will try to think before I peck. If I peck then I will try to perform my peck in an intelligent way so the recipient of the peck would understand that my peck is a friendly one, not intended to harm but wake up the recipient of the peck so he/she would play better (volleyball or the role that he/she have chosen to play while being part of our group). On another hand if somebody pecks me I will try not to react automatically with aggression and retaliate with even harder peck. Instead I will take a deep breath and think about why the peck originated; think: isn't there also something that I have done incorrectly?... and after intelligent analysis and reasoning about why the peck originated, after thinking whether this peck can help me to improve myself... and only if it is really necessary... peck back...

Wishing you happy and prosperous 2017!

Milos

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[Folk Dance Instructor for Children Needed!](#)

We are looking for a Czech and Slovak folk dance enthusiast to lead our youth folk group, Sokolik.

The instructor would be in charge of choreography and leading weekly rehearsals on Friday evenings, January – mid-May, at Carderock Springs ES, Bethesda, MD.



If you have an experience and interest in Czech & Slovak folk dance, please contact our Director of Education Sis. Michaela Kiss at school@sokolwashington.org

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[Monthly Membership Meeting - January 4, 2017](#)



This month's membership meeting will be held at the Bethesda Regional Library.

WHEN: Wednesday, January 4, 2017 from 8:00 PM to 10:00 (EDT)

WHERE: [Bethesda Regional Library](#) - 7400 Arlington Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814

We hope to see you there - all are welcome, member or not!

Contact

Bro. Milos Toth at starosta@sokolwashington.org

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[Sokol School/Preschool - January 6, 2017](#)



Dear Parents and Friends of Czech and Slovak School,

Happy New Year, this month we will meet on January 6th, 13th, and 27th.

School and Sokol activity rules:

- all children who attend school MUST bring a pocket folder, a notebook, pencils and pens to use in class.
- children must be supervised at all times. Failure to do so may result in suspension from Czech & Slovak School and Sokol activities.
- for younger children, a parent/guardian must stay in the building during language classes
- no parents allowed in classrooms except for Preschool Czech & Slovak lessons (check with your child's teacher; all teachers are copied on this email)
- students must complete their homework
- arrive by 6:50pm. Late arrivals are very disruptive and you child may not be able allowed into classroom.
- no running in hallways
- no eating anywhere except the All Purpose Room
- no sitting or standing in hallways; you can do so in APR
- only use bathrooms in the hallway
- at least one parent (or designated parent who has agreed to play the parental role) should stay for the duration of gymnastics as this is a parent participatory program

Checks or cash accepted. Checks are payable to "ASW DC School Fund".

<http://www.sokolwashington.org/about-us/join-us/>

Schedule:

Czech and Slovak School - Youth	Fridays	7:00 – 8:00 pm
Czech and Slovak Preschool	Fridays	7:00 – 8:00 pm
Music and Folklore - Youth	Fridays	8:15 – 9:00 pm
Adult Czech and Slovak Classes	Fridays	8:00 – 9:00 pm
Youth Gymnastics	Fridays	9:00 – 10:00 pm
Adult Yoga	Fridays	7:00 – 8:00 pm

Due to basketball season, the gym is available to us from 9pm till 10pm. It will be this way through March. Gymnastics will follow singing and folklore.

List of teachers and classrooms:

Rm #25 - Radka Herndon, Czech Preschool Teacher

Rm #109 - Andrea Kletetschka, Czech Younger Children & Czech Adult Teacher

Rm #111 - Lukas Masopust, Czech Older Children Teacher

Rm #136 - Hana Sotakova, Czech Native Speaking Children Teacher

Rm #24 - Martina Cullen, Slovak Preschool Teacher

Rm #140 - Michaela Hamiary Janotova, Slovak Children Teacher

Rm #109 - Michaela Hamiary Janotova, Adult Slovak Classes

Teacher's Lounge - Andrea Kletetschka, Czech Adult Classes

School Calendar:

Jan. 6, 13, 27

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24

Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Apr. 21, 28

May 5, 12, 19

June 2, 9, 16

When

Most Fridays - 7 PM

Where

[Carderock Springs Elementary School,](#)
[7401 Persimmon Tree Ln,](#)
[Bethesda, MD 20817](#)

Contact

Michaela Kiss at school@sokolwashington.org

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[Seven Springs Ski Resort Trip - January 13 - 16, 2017](#)

Mini ski trip: Sokol organizes a short ski trip to the Seven Spring resort in January in lieu of the traditional week-long trip to Vermont.



Arrangements have been already made for the three-night stay at the

resort during the MLK weekend (January 13-16, 2017).

If you are interested, contact Ondrej Schneider (schneider.ondrej@gmail.com) for details.

WHEN: January 13 - 16, 2017

WHERE: <http://www.7springs.com/>

Contact

Ondrej Schneider (schneider.ondrej@gmail.com)

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[Save the Date - Šibrinky/Fašiangy/Masquerade Ball - February 25, 2017](#)



Šibrinky/Fašiangy/Masquerade Ball in the theme of "Black and White", an evening of fun, live swing music and dancing with orchestra [PRAŽEVICA](#).

ADULTS ONLY

WHEN: Saturday, February 25, 2017 (6:00 - 11:00 PM)

WHERE: [Embassy of the Czech Republic](#) (3900 Spring of Freedom Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008)

CONTACT: events@sokolwashington.org

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[ASW Membership Dues for 2017](#)



Please DO NOT FORGET that the DEADLINE to submit [ASW membership dues](#) is March 31, 2017.

• Individual Membership (adult /voting)	\$40.00
• Two Adults Membership (both voting)	\$75.00
• Family Membership I. (one adult voting / all children up to 18 years and other non-voting adults)	\$50.00
• Family Membership II. (both adults voting / all children up to 18 years)	\$80.00
• New Member One-time Administrative Fee	\$15.00

Please make your check payable to "American Sokol Washington, DC and mail it at your earliest convenience to:

American Sokol Washington, D.C., Inc.
c/o Br. Tibor Bartalos

Please remember, you are not a full Sokol member with voting privileges until you participate in a monthly meeting(s) and consent to take the Sokol oath.

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Volleyball Tuesdays



We encourage new volleyball players to check out our competitive volleyball Monday group. Due to the group large size and skill level, new players might get limited volleyball play time.

<http://www.sokolwashington.org/activities/sports-activities/volleyball/>

When

Tuesdays, between 8 pm - 10 pm

January: 1/3, 1/10, 1/17 1/24, 1/31

February: 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28

March: 3/7, 3/14, 3/28

April: 4/4

Where

[Wood Acres Elementary School](#)
[5800 Cromwell Dr.,](#)
[Bethesda, MD 20816](#)

Contact

Bro. Vladimir Kovac at tysesty@gmail.com

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Orienteering



Events are organized by the local orienteering clubs and offer great fun for the whole family. This is a great skill for kids to master.

January 7 - [Little Bennett Night-O](#) *

January 8 - [Little Bennett Day-O](#) *

January 22 - [Greenbelt](#)

*** Sis. Dagmar Merkova is an Event Director for this activity.**

Feel free to check the website of the organizer and even try it on your own. Please, also check website for changes due to the weather.

<http://qoc.us.orienteering.org>

NOTE: Pre-registration is required for all listed events - there will be no walk-up registration at the event.

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[Ski Free in PA - 4th/5th Grade Snow-pass](#)



How about skiing or boarding for FREE this winter? Well here's your chance! Your Pennsylvania 4th & 5th Grade Snowpass booklet offers you the privilege of skiing and boarding at 20 Pennsylvania Ski Resorts for FREE this winter - Take mom or dad with you for the thrill of a lifetime - an experience you will never forget.

This season we hope that you and your family have an opportunity to enjoy as many of Pennsylvania's ski resorts as possible. Your Snowpass will provide you with over 64 days of FREE skiing and boarding.

This program has just opened and has limited capacity, so please order your passes now: <https://skipa.com/deals/4th5th-grade-program>

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[Make a Difference - Support Sokol Washington](#)



SUPPORT SOKOL
through a tax-deductible donation

Please give us your consideration when you are deciding on your [charitable contributions](#).

All your contributions to the American Sokol Washington, D.C., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, are tax deductible.



If you are contributing through the United Way, our **CFCNCA** designation code is **93300**.

Your support will directly benefit all our activities and is greatly appreciated!

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Please support us every time you shop at Amazon, at no cost to you. [AmazonSmile](#) is a simple and automatic way for you to support us! You only need to select (Search) - American Sokol Washington, DC - before you begin shopping on your first visit to [AmazonSmile](#).

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[American Sokol Library and Archival Museum](#)

Would you like to get rid of documents, photos, art, books, collections, merchandise, technical material and articles that are inherently valuable and significant to Sokol movement, its founders, members, culture, philosophy, 150 years of history in America and 70 years of history in Washington, D.C. metropolitan area?

Please contact Br. Tibor Bartalos at tbartalos@sokolwashington.org

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[Sokol Washington, D.C. Facebook](#)



Sokol Washington, D.C. offers additional way for the members to communicate and stay informed about additional events we may not include in our monthly newsletters. Bro. **Tibor Bartalos** has been exceptional at leading this effort.

Please bookmark and check our unit's Facebook page on regular basis at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sokol-Washington-DC/191155580916592>

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[Thank you notes](#)



We would not be able to flourish as an organization without the constant help of our many volunteers.

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If you have any suggestion or would like to add users to thank you notes, do not hesitate to contact us at sokol@sokolwashington.org.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events
Sokol Washington DC

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