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As we wrap up another year, it's time to look back at some of the great activities and events that American Sokol Washington D.C. provides for our members and friends interested in Czech and Slovak culture and the number of volunteers who make it such a success. First, a tremendous thank you to our teachers and volunteer staff that make our Czech and Slovak language school such a success for young and old alike. Also, thank you to our members of Sokolik, our cultural youth group, who perform throughout the D.C. area as well as a number of teenagers and adults that work with the kids. How about the folks who make our outdoor and athletic events such a success. Just in the last three months, we've held hiking, camping, canoeing, cycling and volleyball events. To top it off, we thanked our members for our Annual Membership Picnic. Take a look below for some of the highlights you may have missed. Plus, we aren't through as we still have our St. Mikulasska Party, School Christmas Party, and Annual Vermont Ski Trip to wrap up the year. Information for upcoming events is below.

NOVEMBER & PAST EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - VELVET REVOLUTION

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As a part of Celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution in former Czechoslovakia, children from the Czech and Slovak School had the opportunity to learn what democracy, freedom, communism, pioneers, and human rights were before November 1989. Br. Zdenek Beranek presented a lecture explaining what the Velvet Revolution was all about. Students had the opportunity to hear the iconic song "Modlitba pro Martu" (Prayer for Marta) and were able to sing along popular songs of that era, such as: "Jednou budem dal" (We shall overcome) plus: "Krasny je vzduch, krasnejsi je more", (The air is beautiful, the sea is more beautiful), co je nekrasnejsi, co je nejkrasnejsi, ta lidska svoboda" (But what is greatest, what is greatest, is human freedom)

SOKOLIK PERFORMANCE AT THE EMBASSY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC CHRISTMAS MARKET



The Christmas Season officially starts when Sokolik takes to the stage at the Annual Christmas Market. American Sokol Washington D.C. proudly presents Sokolik at high-profile cultural events throughout the D.C area. Thank you to all who participated and we enjoyed seeing a number of our members, friends, and family who were in attendance.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PICNIC

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Thank you Sokol members and friends!!!! Without you, we can't make it happen. On Saturday, October 26, after the rain out of our original date, we came to celebrate, our members, with our Annual Membership Picnic at Fletcher's Boat House along the Potomac River in Washington D.C. Food, drink, fun and games were had by all. Thank you and we look forward to doing it again next year.

IN THIS ISSUE:

UPCOMING

Giving Tuesday - Tuesday, December 3, 2019

December Monthly Membership Meeting - Wednesday, December 3, 2019

St Nicholas Feast - Saturday, December 7, 2019 - NEW LOCATION

Czech and Slovak School Christmas Holiday Party - December 20, 2019

Czechoslovak Christmas Interdenominational Services - December 15, 2019

Vermont Ski Camp - December 26, 2019 - January 2, 2020

42nd Annual Baca Cup International Alpine Ski Race - February 15, 2020

Sibrinky - Casino Night Fundraiser Gala - February 22, 2020

ONGOING

Sokol School/Preschool - December 6 & 13

Around the Embassies

Orienteering - December 1, 8 & 15

Make a Difference - Support Sokol Washington, D.C.

Shop with Amazon, earn money for Sokol Washington, D.C.

American Sokol Library and Archival Museum

Sokol Washington, D.C. Facebook

Thank you

Keep in Touch



The holiday season is just getting into full swing, today is **Giving Tuesday** and a chance to take a short break from the

shopping and concentrate on giving back.

Encourage small acts of kindness.

You may go to www.sokolwashington.org and click on the "Donate Now" button located on the upper-right corner.

DECEMBER MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

We hope to see you there. All are welcome to attend. Member and non-members included.

WHERE: Little Falls Community Library • 5501 Massachusetts Ave • Bethesda, MD 20818

WHEN: Wednesday, December 4 • 8 PM - 10 PM

NEW LOCATION!!!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

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ST. NICHOLAS DINNER FEAST MIKULÁŠSKÁ NADÍLKA

AT A **NEW** LOCATION IN BETHESDA:

Our youth folk group, Sokolik of the Czech and Slovak School, will be singing Christmas Carols (Koledy). Mikuláš and his entourage will arrive afterward.

ADMISSION:

Adult Sokol Member	. \$12.00*	Adult Non-Member	. \$20.00*	Children under 1 Year Free
Child Sokol Member	. \$ 6.00*	Child Non-Member	\$10.00*	

^{*} In exchange for this contribution adults will receive Sokol spend money ("Sokol Dollars") that can be used to buy a Dinner Dessert Drinks Bake Sale (homemade Slovak, Moravian and Czech koláce, strudels and Christmas cookies) Jitrnice/Jaternice (hash-and-crumbs sausages) Jelita/Krvavnicky (black-pudding sausages) Books, etc. Complimentary coffee and tea will be available.

Each child will receive a traditional gift from St. Nicholas "Mikuláš"!

CONTACT: Ondrej Schneider at events@sokolwashington.org **WHEN:** Saturday, December 7th, 2019 • 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

WHERE: River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation • 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

Please support our Czech/Slovak School

by baking Christmas Cookies for our **BAKE SALE**.

Cookies will be available for purchase at the St. Nicholas Feast.

Volunteers are welcome for various tasks.

Donation to support this event and American Sokol Washington D.C. Organization are greatly appreciated.

CZECHOSLOVAK INTERDENOMINATIONAL SERVICES

DECEMBER 15

Come and enjoy Czech-Slovak Christmas Interdenominational Services. Together, we will sing beloved Czech and Slovak Christmas carols and wish each other a wonderful Holiday Season. A reception will follow.

WHEN: Sunday, December 15, 2019 @ 3:00 PM

WHERE: Emmanuel Lutheran Church
7730 Bradley Blvd. • Bethesda, MD 20817



VERMONT SKI CAMP

DECEMBER 26, 2019 - JANUARY 2, 2020

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This year's annual ski camp will take place between December 26, 2019, and January 2, 2020. The goal of the ski trip is for children ages 6 to 18 to enjoy outdoors in the mountains, to participate in sports, and to have an opportunity to socialize with Czech and Slovak peers in an environment that fosters their Czech and Slovak language skills and appreciation for their heritage. Children participate in structured skiing instruction with Czech or Slovak ski instructors and in organized indoor games in the evenings. Children under six-years are welcome. However, children under 6 need to be supervised by their parents, as we do not offer specific activities for this age group.

It's too late to join this year's ski camp, but we look forward to seeing you next year. Please look for updates and plans for the 2020/21 camp in upcoming newsletters.

COMING SOON! Our Annual Fundraising Gala

FEBRUARY 22, 2020

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Full Course Dinner • Dancing • Live Music • Cash Bar • Silent Auction •
 Raffle Drawing • Prizes • BlackJack • Roulette •

WHEN: Saturday, February 22, 2020

WHERE: The Embassy of the Czech Republic • 3900 Spring of Freedom Street NW Washington D.C. 20008



More information to come

42nd ANNUAL BACA CUP SKI RACE

FEBRUARY 15, 2020

The Bača Cup is an international invitational alpine ski racing event dating back to 1979. Racers of all ages, nationalities and skill levels are invited to participate as representatives from Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Germany, and the United States take part in this annual event that highlights the relationship between all countries and their shared love of the Nordic experience. Truly, the Bača's vision of cooperation, competition, and good fun is realized through all who choose to be involved.

More information to come



DECEMBER 6, 13 & 20

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Sokol events throughout the year. For adults, there are opportunities for those looking to learn or advance their Czech/Slovak language skills.

There will be an activity, conversation and volunteer opportunities in the multi-purpose room for the adults while we actively wait for the children and their lessons. In addition, following school, there will be Music/Culture/Folklore and athletics/gymnastics.

Children attending school will need to **bring**: a folder, a composition book, a pencil case filled with pencils, pens & crayons.

Please enter through the door facing the parking lot. School begins at **6:45**. All children will be escorted to the class by their teachers. If you are late, please escort your children to the class. If you are new to the school, there will be plenty of parent volunteers to assist you.

WHEN: Friday, December 6, 13 & 20 • 6:45 PM - 8:00 PM

WHERE: Carderock Springs Elementary School 7401 Persimmon Tree Ln • Bethesda, MD 20817

CONTACT: Sis. Michaela Kiss or Lucie Berankova

at school@sokolwashington.org

Christmas Event on Friday, December 20. We look forward to seeing you.





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FRIDAYS - SCHEDULE:

Czech and Slovak School - Youth 6:45 - 8:00 pm
Czech and Slovak Preschool 6:45 - 8:00 pm
Music and Folklore - Youth 8:15 - 9:00 pm
Adult Czech and Slovak Classes 8:00 - 9:00 pm
Youth Gym Activities 8:15/9:00 - 10:00 pm

More information about our school **CLICK HERE**

Events Around the Czech and Slovak Embassies

Check out these Czech & Slovak events sponsored by the Embassies of the Czech Republic and Slovakia Please check the location. Not all events are at the Embassies:

Czech Embassy

https://www.mzv.cz/washington/en/culture_events/culture/index.html

Slovak Embassy

http://www.mzv.sk/web/en/news

ORIENTEERING

Quantico Orienteering Club

Come and enjoy this family-friendly sport. 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.

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Dec. 8 Sun.	Mason Neck SP, Maso	n Neck SP, Lorton, VA	Classic		
Dec. 15 Sun.	Patapsco Valley State	<u>Park, Avalon area, Elkridge, MD</u>	Classic		

Check the website of the organizer and even try it on your own. Please, also check the website for changes due to the weather. www.qocweb.org

All are welcome and for those interested, please contact brother Miroslav Honzák at sports@sokolwashington.org

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

CONTACT: Br. Tibor Bartalos at tbartalos@sokolwashington.org

Make a Difference - Support Sokol Washington

Please give us your consideration when you are deciding on your donations.

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



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Sokol Washington, DC Facebook

Sokol Washington, D.C. offers additional ways for members to communicate and stay informed about additional events we may not include in our monthly newsletters.



CONTACT: Dr. Tipor Bartalos at tbartalos@sokolwashington.org

Past Issues



We would not be able to flourish as an organization without the constant help of our many volunteers. American Sokol. That's why it's important that all members and friends, at least from time to time, offer their contribution to help our Sokol Unit thrive. Our Unit can be only as good as our members' participation in its activities.

Special Thanks to Antonin Svehla a Jana H. Svehlova for their generous donation to the Czech and Slovak School.



KEEP IN TOUCH

We value you as our audience! Stay engaged and informed about our oncoming an educational, cultural, folk or sporting events and do not miss our MailChimp campaigns. Please make sure that our e-mail sokol@sokolwashington.org is included in your Contacts/Mailing list and does not end up in your Spam or Trash box.

Washington, D.C. Chapter, is a 501(c)(3) a non-profit organization and all of its officers are volunteers.



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