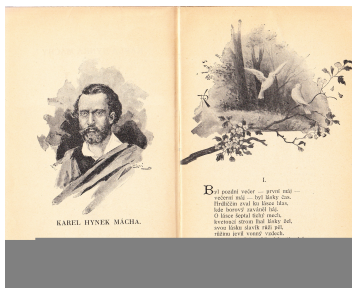


[View this email in your browser](#)



Máj (The Czech word for the Month of May) is a romantic poem by Karel Hynek Mácha. It is one of the most prominent works of Czech literature and is usually on the must-read list for students. Máj is said to be one of the most often published original Czech books with over 250 editions.

According to the author, the poem is a homage to the beauty of spring.

Karel Hynek Mácha (born Nov. 16, 1810, Prague, died Nov. 5, 1836, Litoměřice) literary artist who is considered the greatest poet of Czech Romanticism.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

Membership Meeting - Wednesday, May 5th

Chase and Catch with Bears ("Na honěnou s medvědy") Saturday, May 8th

Saturday, May 22: 1. Shenandoah Hike - May 22nd

Saturday, May 22: 2. Shenandoah Camping - May 22nd

Sunday, May 23: 3. Shenandoah River Canoe Trip - May 23rd

David Vlcek and Family Fundraiser

Recap: Easter Egg Hunt

Recap: Olga Hudlicka's Memorial Annual Hiking Mountain Marathon

Let's simplify citizenship for Slovaks abroad - A Compatriot Initiative

Czech and Slovak School Updates

## ONGOING

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

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

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

[Thank you](#)

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## MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5th, 8:00 PM

The meeting will be available virtually through Zoom.

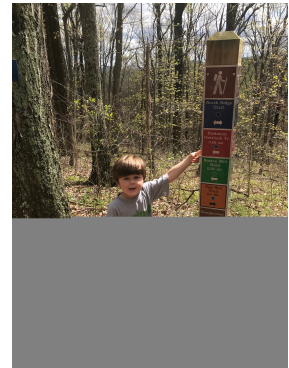
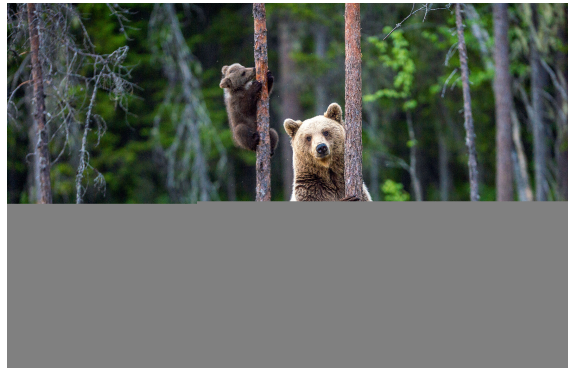
Please respond to [sokol@sokolwashington.org](mailto:sokol@sokolwashington.org) if you would like to participate.

All members and non-members are welcome to join. We meet every 1st Wednesday of the month.

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## Chase and Catch with bears ("Na honěnou s medvědy")

SATURDAY, MAY 8th



**Saturday, May 8th - hiking with children** in the beautiful [Sky Meadows State Park](#).

Would you like to know something about bears? How they live, what they eat, what their footprints look like, or their poops? Please join us for this fun event for the whole family. We will hike a 7 km (4.3 mile) long trail with a break for outdoor bear games and activities for a picnic and play time. Bring snacks, enough water and please bring your own **scarf** which we will need for some of the games.

[Sky Meadows State Park](#) is located in northwest Fauquier County, Virginia in the Blue Ridge Mountains, near Paris, Virginia. It is about an hour outside of the Washington, D.C. metro region.

This event is open to all.

Please join us and let Lucie Berankova know at - [school@sokolwashington.org](mailto:school@sokolwashington.org)

**We will meet at 10:00 AM** at the parking lot

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## 1. Hiking in Shenandoah

SATURDAY, MAY 22



**MEETING PLACE:** Starbucks close to Front Royal, Exit 6 from Rt 66;

[125 Riverton Commons Plaza, Front Royal, VA 22630](#)

(Please use the address for directions since there is another Starbucks at Target nearby)

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, MAY 22 AT 9:15 AM

We will continue together by car (20min) to trailhead: parking at the end of VA630 where the paved road ends. DO NOT park on the gravel private driveway. Please respect private property. [N 38.80194](#), [W 78.31461](#)

The hike is 8.5 miles long. From the trailhead, we go counterclockwise uphill to see the waterfall and have snacks. At this point, you have most of the climbing behind you, and you decide if you want to turn back and make it shorter or finish the whole loop. We can reunite at the swimming hole - the favorite highlight of this hike. From that place, it is a very short hike to the parking lot.

Tired but refreshed, you can join us for family camping, and if you wish to continue having fun, join us for a [canoe trip](#) the next day.

**CONTACT:** [events@sokolwashington.org](mailto:events@sokolwashington.org)

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## 2. Camping in Shenandoah

SATURDAY, MAY 22



**WHERE:** [Golden Rock Campground, 9571 US-340 N., Rileyville, VA 22650](#)  
c/o Downriver Canoe Comp.

Access with a code only. Code will be shared with those who RSVP.

**WHEN:** SATURDAY, MAY 22, arrive anytime during the day; most of us will get there after the Sokol hike (event #1)

For camping, you need water, drinks, a tent, sleeping pads, a light sleeping bag/blanket, flashlights.

For food: BYO, for dinner, we recommend roasted sausages over the fire (you can freeze them to survive the heat in the car during the day), bread. Oatmeal/bagel for breakfast.

Two small gas camping stoves and pots will be available for you to boil water if necessary. There are no good options to buy extra food unless you want to go back to Front Royal.

Optional hiking before camping (event #1) and optional canoe trip the next morning (event #3).  
Please check our website for more about all 3 events

**CONTACT:** [events@sokolwashington.org](mailto:events@sokolwashington.org)

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## ANNUAL ONE DAY CANOE TRIP

SUNDAY, MAY 23





Minimum age: 5 with close parental supervision. We plan to do a 12-mile trip on the river or about 5-6 hours with stops, subject to change based on water conditions. There will be an option for interested folks to go down the Compton Rapids (class I-II).

**CONTACT:** [events@sokolwashington.org](mailto:events@sokolwashington.org) to reserve a canoe or kayak or to book a shuttle for your own canoe or kayak. For a discount on the rental, please RSVP no later than **May 18th**.

**START:** 9:15 AM sharp from the [Downriver Canoe Company](#)  
[884 Indian Hollow Road Bentonville, VA 22610](#) | [www.downriver.com](http://www.downriver.com)

Driving from Washington, D.C. may take you 2 hrs. (85 miles). Your cars will stay at Downriver Canoe Co. Our trip starts and ends there.

[CDC COVID-19 guidelines for visiting parks](#)

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## David Vlcek and Family Fundraiser

To Donate: [David Vlcek gofundme](#)

As you may know, David collapsed on April 17th and was rushed to the ER. They diagnosed him with a ruptured aneurysm in his brain. He had to be airlifted to a hospital in Washington, DC, that has a neurosurgeon on staff. It has been a rollercoaster ride since then; as soon as he seems to be improving, other complications arise. At this time, he is also fighting pneumonia.

Unfortunately, health insurance will not cover certain expenses. Average recovery from a brain injury may take up to 6 months. Their deductible and out-of-pocket maximum combined is almost 30K. Airfare for his parents, who hope to be granted special permission to travel here from the Czech Republic is needed. In addition, there are living expenses (monthly mortgage, health insurance, car payments, other bills), and most probably the helicopter ride (25-40K). With this in mind, we are setting an initial goal of \$100K to help ease the family's financial burden.



stay-at-home mom, is not able to visit him in the hospital due to Covid-19 restrictions. The inability of the family to visit in person is devastating. Their girls are missing daddy tremendously.

The family is overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support received. By contributing to this fund, you are helping to alleviate the second most stressful worry that the Vlcek family is facing, the first being David's health and ultimate recovery.

To Donate: [David Vlcek gofundme](#)

## RECAP

### Easter Egg Treasure Hunt

Families from across the D.C. Metro came out on the Saturday for a Sokol-style Easter Egg Hunt. The children and their families joined American Sokol Washington D.C. on a fun and challenging (at least for a 5-year-old) 2 KM hike through the beautiful Wheaton Regional Park. Along their journey the children found clues to earn treats and ended with a visit with the Easter Bunny. A fun and safe outdoor, socially distanced event. Thank you to our teenage volunteers who donned the Easter Bunny for over 4 hours and acted as "foxes" to pretend to steal the earned treats. In addition to our members and friends, this event was opened to all and we were pleasantly surprised that the Japanese community found our event and we had a number of Japanese families participate. We enjoyed sharing our own culture with them and look forward to safely attending their events as well as for other communities as well.



## RECAP

## 8th Annual Olga Hudlicka Hiking Mountain Marathon

Members and friends alike joined in the beautiful weather and even better scenery of hiking on the Little Devils Stairs trail, along the Appalachian Trail inside the Shenandoah National Park. This year we tried a new alternative route, while Pavel Klein did a longer distance than the rest of us! (45km!) Wonderful day with wonderful friends.



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### Let's simplify citizenship for Slovaks abroad

Below is a compatriot initiative, [One Slovak Family](#), regarding the proposed amendment of the Slovak Citizenship Act.

The Slovak Parliament is currently debating an amendment to the Citizenship Act, **which would allow children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Czechoslovak citizens born in Slovakia to apply for citizenship of the Slovak Republic.**

It would be a simplified form of naturalization, which would require neither knowledge of the language, nor a certain amount of years' residence.

**However, as it is proposed, it would require the applicant to have a residence permit in Slovakia.**

We would therefore like to ask for your support, as a compatriot organization, for our [petition to waive this residence requirement, so that fellow descendants of Slovaks abroad may apply for citizenship via an embassy.](#)

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# Czech and Slovak School



**April 30th** is St. Jacob's Night (Svatojakubská noc). It is a special day in the Czech Republic and is a celebration of the "burning of witches" (*pálení čarodějnic*). This custom marks a farewell to winter and welcomes spring.

In the Czech Republic, people believed that the power of witches would weaken as the weather got warmer. So, they gathered and set up a bonfire where they burned an effigy of the witch that kept winter too long. We remembered this tradition in the Czech school where children created these beautiful witches in art classes. On St. Jacob's Friday night, we made a fire and burned the imaginary witches we made. At the same time, the children roasted sausages, told us scary stories, and sang Czech songs.





## Shop with Amazon Smile and Support Sokol Washington, DC



**AmazonSmile** is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on *Amazon* to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). The donation will be made at no extra cost to you and you can choose from nearly one million public charitable organizations. Select American Sokol Washington, DC before you begin shopping on your first visit to AmazonSmile.

Please support us every time you shop at **AmazonSmile**, at no cost to you. It 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. 0.5% from your shopping through Amazon Smile will go to support our American Sokol Washington, DC

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

## 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 the 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: [media@sokolwashington.org](mailto:media@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.



## 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.



Please check out American Sokol, Washington D.C. on Facebook: [See us here](#)

If you have a cultural, folk, educational or sporting/athletic event you would like to share with our members, please CONTACT: [media@sokolwashington.org](mailto:media@sokolwashington.org)

## Join Us and Become a Member

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of Sokol Washington.

### Benefits to our Unit

Your membership dues enable our Unit to continue our many programs – sports, outdoor, social, cultural and educational.

### Benefit to You

Membership in our Unit has a number of benefits – discounts at all our social events; free participation in gymnastics for youth; and for adults, and free participation in pick-up volleyball.

### SOKOL WASHINGTON MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Individual Membership (adult/voting) \$40.00

- Family Membership II. (two adults voting / all children up to 26 years) \$80.00
- New Member/Reinstated One-time Administrative Fee waived

CONTACT: [membership@sokolwashington.org](mailto:membership@sokolwashington.org)



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.



## 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](mailto: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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