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*What a month. American Sokol Washington D.C. was out in full force with a 100 mile bike ride, hiking marathon, our annual membership picnic, and our now annual Sokol Run for the Republic event. In addition, the children of Sokolik did a great job with a gymnastics performance at the Embassy of the Czech Republic.*

*Hold on!!! Because the action is going to stay hot as the weather starts to cool down. Oh, and keep reading inside because very influential people have been in contact with St. Nicholas and his little angel and devil friends and they may just be joining us for a feast.*

***As a reminder, for all in-person meetings, we will follow CDC and local guidelines. If you or any member of your party feels ill or has been exposed to Covid-19, please stay home and follow the appropriate guidelines.***

## IN THIS ISSUE:

[Membership Meeting - Tuesday, November 2](#)

St. Nicholas Party - Sunday, December 5th - SAVE THE DATE

Performance of Sokolik at the Czech Embassy Christmas Market - Saturday, November 6th

Ginger Bread Cookie Workshop - Thursday, November 18 or Wednesday, December 1

Giving Tuesday - Tuesday, November 30

Winter Ski Trip, Hunter Mountain New York - December 26 - January 2

### **OUR MONTHLY NEWS RECAPS:**

*Annual Sokol Run*

*15th Annual Kozak Memorial Cycle Ride*

*Membership Appreciation Picnic*

*Walking Memorial*

*Olympic Village at Embassy*

History Window: Sokol Day and Memorial Sokol Day

Sokol Volleyball Season

Sokol For Life Updates

Czech and Slovak School

## ONGOING

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Sokol Washington, D.C. Facebook & Instagram

## MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 8:00

PM

Please join us at our Monthly Membership Meeting, share ideas, and participate in planning future events. It is your opportunity to play a part in shaping the future of our unit and meet our newly elected board.

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 Tuesday of the month.

**Little Falls Community Library.**

5501 Massachusetts Ave.

Bethesda, MD 20816



Outdoors at Embassy of the Czech Republic

3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, | Washington, DC 20008

When: Sunday, December 5, 2-6 pm

Where: Embassy of the Czech Republic

**More information and RSVP instructions will follow**

## PERFORMANCE OF SOKOLIK AT THE Czech Christmas Market

*Tis the season to be jolly!*

**The Embassy of the Czech Republic invites you to its annual Czech Christmas Market on November 6, 2021, from 9:30 am to 6 pm. This year, we look forward to bringing you the magic of the season and in person. Browse stands filled with beautiful handcrafted ornaments, Bohemian crystal, exquisite bead and glass jewelry, fine art, Moravian wines, and traditional liquors.**



Enjoy the taste and smell of mulled wine as well as an assortment of delicious Czech pastries and gingerbread, and savory cuisine.

Adore the array of live animals from the Nativity scene. Listen to the children of American Sokol Washington DC and Slavic American Sokol performing Czech Christmas carols and live music by the folk band Orchester Praževica.

**November 6, 2021, 9:30 am – 6 pm**

Embassy of the Czech Republic  
3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW,  
Washington, DC 20008

### Reservations required:

<https://czechchristmasmarket.eventbrite.com>

### Admission is free.

*Some of the vendors cannot accept credit cards, so please bring cash as well.*

**Parking:** Non-metered parking is available on Spring of Freedom Street and Tilden Street.

**Closest Metro:** The Embassy is about a 15-20 minute walk from the Van Ness Metro Station



**Children from the Sokolik** will perform Christmas carols and Czech, Slovak, and Moravian folk dances. They will adore the array of live animals from the Nativity scene.



**Embassy Policy:** Everyone must wear a mask unless actively eating and drinking. To attend, you must be vaccinated or present a negative covid test, unless you are under the age of 16. At its discretion, the Embassy may take your temperature upon arrival. No large bags are allowed. Small purses may be checked as you pass through security for entrance. RSVP confirmation and photo ID required.



# Gingerbread Cookie Workshop



Gingerbread cookies are one of the most popular types of Christmas cookies. They inevitably include decorations, for which sugar icing is used. As far as the cookies, you should start baking early so that they can soften a bit to be ready to be eaten for Christmas.

We are assembling a workshop where we will decorate to the best of our abilities, learn from seasoned decorators and try not to eat all the leftover icing.

Let your imagination run wild with creativity. Come and enjoy this lovely Christmas tradition with us on **November 18 th or December 1st** in **Little Falls Community Library (TBC) 8-10 pm**

To register contact Dasa: [dmerkova@sokolwashington.org](mailto:dmerkova@sokolwashington.org)

Registration fee \$5/\$10 (members/nonmembers)

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## MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



**Tuesday, November 30, 2021**

Dear Sokol Members, Friends, and Supporters,

Please give us your consideration when you are deciding on your end-of-year contributions.  
All your contributions to the American Sokol Washington, D.C., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization,

A red rectangular button with a white right-pointing arrow and the text "DONATE NOW" in white capital letters.

**SUPPORT SOKOL**  
through a tax-deductible donation

Give us your Smile and 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](#).



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

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**WINTER SKI TRIP is back for 2021**

## **Ski Camp at Hunter Mountain, NY.**

**December 26, 2021 - January 2, 2022**



The famous Sokol winter ski trip is back this season, albeit in a smaller edition. Several families are headed to the [Hunter Mountain](#) on December 26, 2021, and will be staying until January 2, 2022. We have rented apartments/houses already, so if you are interested you will have to make your own arrangements. All interested families should contact the director of men, Miro Honzak [events@washingtonsokol.org](mailto:events@washingtonsokol.org)) with the subject line "Winter ski camp" as soon as possible.

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

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## Sokol Run

The Sokol Run of the Republic is an annual celebration of the founding of Czechoslovakia, a tradition that started a year after the state was founded when it gained its independence from the Austro-Hungarian Empire on October 28, 1918. Thus this October we continued the annual Sokol Run tradition.

A hot novelty of this year was the original medal designed by sculptor and athlete Jakub Flejšar. He was able to connect the world of art and sports, thanks to which all competitors took home a unique metal medal after the finish, which could be used, for example, as a brooch, pendant, or another fashion accessory in the shape of our national tree symbol, linden leaf. Children received beautiful medals made out of ash wood.

On the day of the race, we had pleasant weather, and as is our tradition event started as a mass start. We ran the first half of the race together, and the second, everybody raced to finish with their top speed. The race winners were Milan Steen and Jana Robinson. All did their best and were fair, following Sokol values listed on their numbers: Sport-Obcanstvi-Komunita-Osobnost-Laskavost (*Sport - Citizenship - Community - Personality - Kindness*).

Children had a shorter race but they all ran as hard as possible and their rewards were medals. More pictures from the race are on our [FB](#).

### 5km

Milan Steen, Lukas Hadrava, Pavel Steen, Honza Woska, Cyril Bumbalek, Jana Robinson, Jana Peterkova, Tereza Hubackova, Lauren Weber, Martin Jezo, Mark and Isabel Nebesky, Milos Toth, Dominika Janakova, Radka Herndon, Rhadem Musawah, Elsa Nebesky, Radka Nebesky, Aneta Baudysova a Petra Laicmanova

### Children race

Tonik Tuma, Magdicka Tumova, David Robinson, Verunka Herndon, Marika Peterkova, Frantík Tuma, Julianek Percy

**Individual Race:** Nataalka Toth, Mimra Family, Bo, Janie and Carson Nichols, and Zuzana Steen





*On a beautiful Sunday morning, Sokol Washington D.C. held the 4th Annual Run for The Republic. The run has quickly become one of our signature events for both race hardened members and casual runners or walkers. The 5k run heads down a path in beautiful Meadow Park. There is also a fun 1k children's run.*

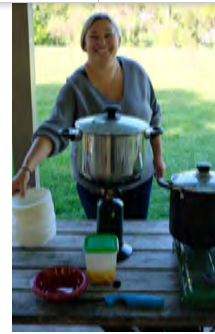
## ANNUAL KOZAK MEMORIAL **Bike Ride**

An unseasonably warm Fall day welcomed riders as they set out. Riders of all ages started at different access points along the W&OD trail, based on their preferences and abilities: the youngest peddled with parents from Leesburg (30 km), others from Ashburn (60 and 80 Km), and there were even those who rode from their respective homes (100+ km). All the same, they all converged in good spirits at the community shelter in Hamilton, VA, for a Czech-style lunch served by dedicated volunteers (thank you, Radka Percy!).

This was our 15th annual Kozak Memorial to honor the memory of one of our Sokol members who died while climbing Mt. Everest. His friendship, sportsmanship, and dedication to Sokol's ideals continue to inspire new and old generations of "Sokols."







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## MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION **Picnic**

Since 1995, the second Sunday in October has been reserved for our Membership Appreciation Picnic. Sokol members and friends of all ages meet at Fletcher's Boat House on the C&O Canal in Washington, D.C. to enjoy games and boat rides on the canal, volleyball, and, of course, yummy klobasy grilled to perfection by Vlado Kovac, and other traditional delicacies – all complimentary. Over the years, the Membership Appreciation Picnic has become one of our most popular events.

This year's picnic was on Sunday instead of the initially planned Saturday. It turned out exceptionally well. Great weather followed Saturday's stormy day and created an excellent autumn atmosphere. The best part was everyone spending time together, outside on such a beautiful day alongside the Potomac River in Washington, D.C.



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## FAMILY-FRIENDLY **Walking Marathon**

This year's (19th) autumn geriatric marathon took place Saturday, October 23. The route was, as usual, along the C&O Canal of Violette's Lock (mile 22) to the west, for a total of 26.218 miles, 42.129 km.

It was a beautiful day on the C&O Canal trail. We started with a small group of friends with a puppy Oliver. The pace was not leisurely, and just three people walked to the White Ferry and back. Some did half marathon distance, and the group with puppy Oliver did just one-fourth of the length. Still, we all had a great time, caught up with friends, and enjoyed a bright sunny autumn day.





## PERFORMANCE AT THE CZECH EMBASSY'S **Olympic Village**



Over 500 people attended the Czech Embassy's Olympic Village on September 18, 2021, celebrating Czech Olympic

On the railing of the Embassy, black and white pictures presented the life of the highlighted personality - Czech Olympian Věra Čáslavská, who during her career won seven Olympic gold medals in gymnastics. In tribute to her legacy, children of **American Sokol Washington, DC**, performed live acrobatics, as the sounds of Věra Čáslavská's Olympic triumphs played over the sound system.

The tone for the day, the band [Orchester Praževica](#), led by Tomáš Drgoň, played Czechoslovak folk songs and jazzy tunes. Couples danced, children clapped, and onlookers tapped their feet to the beat.

**Cheers to a fun-filled day celebrating Czech athletes and the Games!**



# SOKOL DAY

October 8th



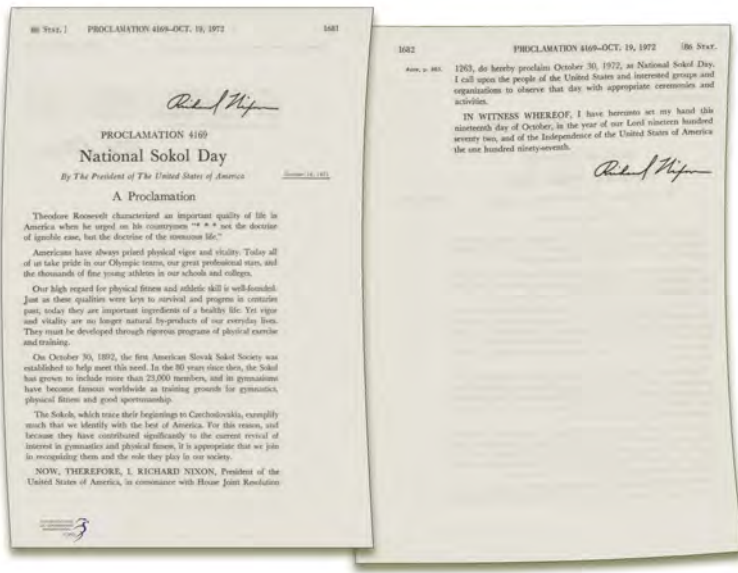
Each year the Czech Sokols commemorate **October 8th** as a reminder of the tragic events in the organization's history. On the night of October 7, 1941, the "Sokol Action" was launched by a Decree of Reinhard Heydrich, Nazi Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia.

Memorial **Day of Falconry** is a Tribute to all the members of Sokol, who during the almost 160 years of the association's existence, have dedicated their lives to the struggle for freedom, democracy, and independence.

The date of October 8 was chosen as a reminder of the tragic events of 1941. On the night of October 7-8, 1941, as part of the "Sokol Action", when the Gestapo arrested 1,500 Sokols from headquarters, counties, and larger units. They were interrogated, tortured, imprisoned, some deported to concentration camps. Few survived the war. You may listen to the [broadcast of Radio Prag International](#) (in English) for the historical background of this day. Later that night, Reinhard Heydrich signed an official order to dissolve the Czech Sokol community, which the Nazis considered a most dangerous domestic organization, whose organizational apparatus served the resistance movement on a mass scale.

Sokol lights took place in many places in the Czech Republic as celebrations of the Memorial Day of Sokols, which established a Day of Significance starting in 2019. The lantern procession, a wreath ceremony, lighting of candle boats created by participants for the souls of dead Sokol brothers and Sisters, and Sokol flags on the buildings made for a





## National Sokol Day

*"The Sokols, which trace their beginnings to Czechoslovakia, exemplify much that we identify with the best of America. For this reason, and because they have contributed significantly to the current revival of interest in gymnastics and physical fitness, it is appropriate that we join in recognizing them and the role they play in our society."*

President, Richard Nixon, recognized **October 30** to be a **Sokol Day** as a recognition of the work of the American Slovak Sokol Society, which was established on October 30, 1892, You can read [full proclamation here](#).



## Volleyball Tuesdays

9:00 - 10:15 PM



Pick-up volleyball has been a favorite weekly adult sports activity for our members and friends of both genders, varied ages, and skill levels for many years.

**WHEN:** Tuesdays at 9:00 - 10:15 PM, October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2, 9

**WHERE:** [Jackson Middle School](#)

Main Gym (Room 304)

[3020 Gallows Road Falls Church, VA 22042](#)

**CONTACT:** Radovan Kohlmayer [sports@sokolwashington.org](mailto:sports@sokolwashington.org)

## With Sokol for Life



*"The world doesn't end outside the door;  
we learn from animals to run, jump, climb, and more ...."*

Another month of fun and games with our Pepik mascot and kids of 3 to 6 years old. We learned to jump and run, we had exercises with the ball: throw, catch and kick. We practiced a start and finish for the big race " Sokol Run".

It is essential at this early stage to develop the right motoric movements and postures. Sokolik Pepik is looking forward to seeing the kids every Tuesday.

**WHEN:** Tuesdays at 6 pm

**WHERE:** Carderock Park, MD

**Contact:** Veronika Clewner [se.sokolem@sokolwashington.org](mailto:se.sokolem@sokolwashington.org)



**SE SOKOLEM  
DO ŽIVOTA**

In addition to regular weekly Monday meetings, we will organize family trips suitable for this age group. Please register or follow our newsletter, website or social media for such events.





# Sokolik performance is coming!

Classes are full, so if you are interested in joining our school please contact first Misa & Misa at [school@sokolwashington.org](mailto:school@sokolwashington.org). Misa Pazderova and Misa Kiss are making sure that everything runs well.

Christmas is coming and our youth Sokolik group is starting to practice Christmas carols for their performance at the Christmas Market at Czech Embassy. We continue to alternate gymnastics with cultural activities.

No school on November 26th!

*Covid restrictions are still observed.*

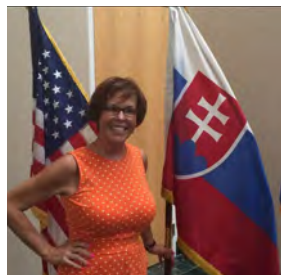


**Contact:** Michaela [school@sokolwashington.org](mailto:school@sokolwashington.org)

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## IN MEMORIAM

1960 - 2021



**Marcela Baláž Maduro**, a widely respected teacher, interpreter, and translator of the Slovak and German languages, died at her home in Jacksonville, Florida, on September 4, 2021. Marcela is survived by her loving husband, Denis Brandon Maduro (67); their two daughters, Gabriela Baláž Maduro (24) and Andrea Baláž Maduro (22); and her two brothers, Richard Baláž (58) and Andrej Baláž (55). She will be laid to rest alongside her parents in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Full obituary announcement can be found here:

<https://everloved.com/life-of/marcela-maduro/obituary/>

Information about Marcela's life celebration can be found by clicking on the link below.

Everybody is invited.

<http://evite.me/6C4JzKYzMx>

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**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.



## We are on Social Media

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 and Instagram

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



- Family Membership I. (one adult voting / all children up to 26 years & one non-voting adult) \$50.00
- 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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