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Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. As we wind down another calendar year, it is good to reflect back on the past year. We have all been affected greatly by Coronavirus both here, in the Czech Republic and Slovakia and throughout the world. Just like you, American Sokol Washington D.C. has persevered and organized a number of events where we could safely gather, using local guidelines and some common sense. We hope we helped bring some sunshine into your lives as much as seeing your faces at the Czech and Slovak Friday Language Schools for our youngest members or at outdoor events like the Membership picnic, bike rides, running challenges, camping trips, etc....brought sunshine into those who helped plan and organize those events to keep us connected.

However, for 2021 the best is still to come. On Sunday, December 5, St. Nicholas arrives. Thanks to the Embassy of the Czech Republic, ASW will be hosting a Mikulasska St. Nicholas feast. For those coming, we look forward to seeing you at this outdoor event. For those unable to attend, we look forward to seeing you at upcoming events as well as next year's Mikulasska where hopefully attendance will be unlimited.

THANK YOU!!!

*American Sokol Organization for awarding us the **2021 Foundation Grant** to Revamp our American Sokol Washington DC Website and our newsletter. The grant has helped us revamp content pages and help us in producing the monthly newsletter. Please visit our updated site at www.sokolwashington.org.*

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.

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OUR MONTHLY NEWS RECAP:

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Czech and Slovak School

ONGOING

Join Us and Make a Difference - Support Sokol Washington, D.C.

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

Sokol Washington, D.C. Facebook & Instagram

Thank you

Gingerbread Cookie Workshop

December 1st, 2021



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 **December 1st** in **Carderock Elementary School 7:30-10 pm**

RSVP only: Dasa Merkova dmerkova@sokolwashington.org

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021



Mikulášská St. Nicholas Party

outdoors

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

Limited Spots are available for 3:00pm - 5:00pm.

Advanced Registration Only

When: Sunday, December 5, 1-5 pm
Where: Embassy of the Czech Republic

For More information [CLICK HERE](#)

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 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 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](#)

Old Rag Mountain hike

December 18, 2021



A favorite hike in Shenandoah. This is not an easy hike, but what FUN! Climbing, scrambling, steep slopes, and spectacular views. Let's hope cold weather will keep crowds out and the weather will be dry! Please, leave your pets home on this hike. Wear layered clothes, a warm jacket, hiking shoes; it can get windy on the top—good snacks, plenty of drinks. After the hike, we will stop at Sharp Rock winery to share a glass of wine, sing Christmas carols and practice some old Christmas traditions.

RSVP: events@sokolwashington.org

DATE: December 18th at 8:15 am

Meeting place: [Sheets gas station in Warrenton](#)

Family Skating Christmas Eve Morning

December 24, 2021



Before the Christmas Eve tree lighting and celebrations begin, enjoy the morning of the 24th with your friends for winter, outdoor ice skating in Pentagon City, Virginia. Listen to the sharp slicing sound of your skates across the ice, share your Christmas cookies or special homemade teas, eggnog, or hot chocolate. The rink opens at 10 am. Come earlier or later! How long we stay will only depend on the weather and how long the hot drinks will last!

[Reservations are required](#)

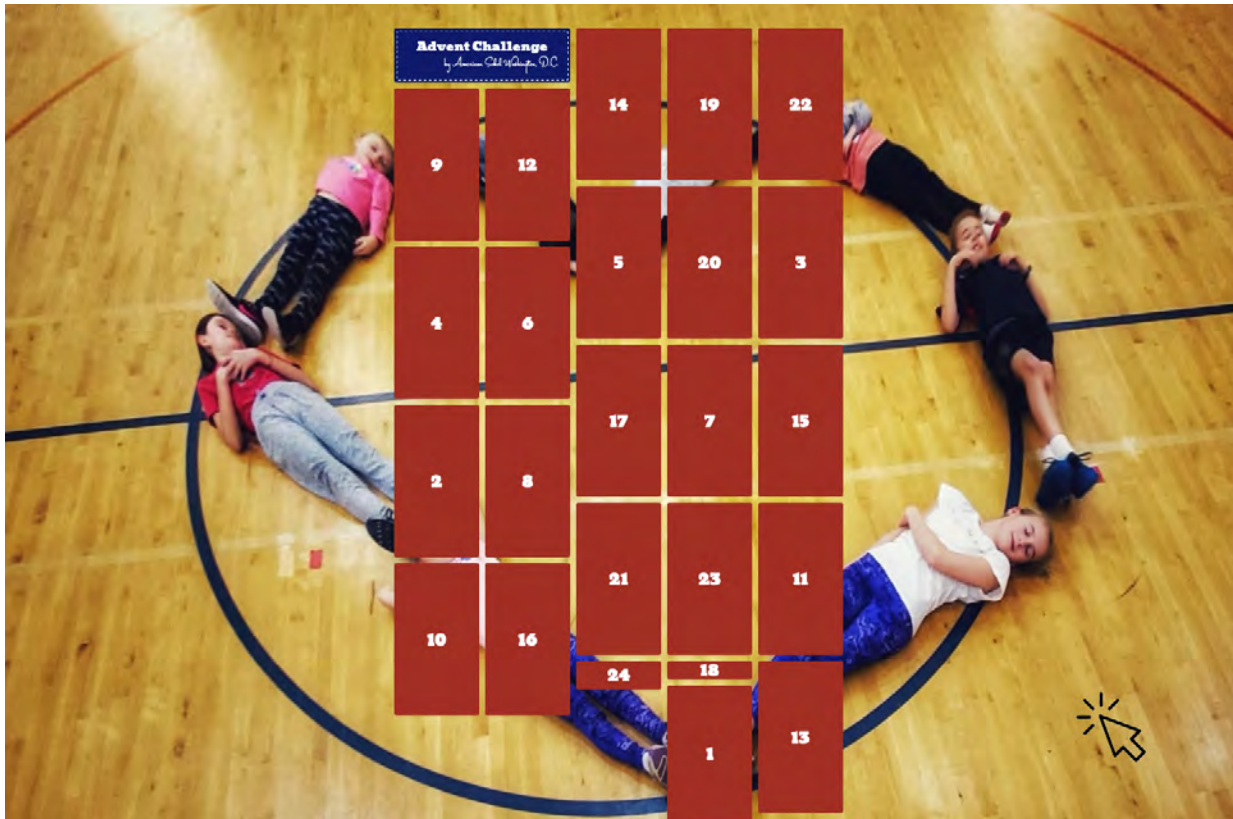
REGISTER: www.pentagonrowskating.com

DATE: December 24th at 10:00 am

WHERE: [Pentagon Row Outdoor Ice City Skating](#) 1201 S Joyce St, Arlington, VA 22202

Please follow ice rink covid restrictions.

Advent Challenge



Holiday traditions are part of our Czech and Slovak heritage. Let's use this old tradition to do something for our body and mind. Relax and breathe, have fun, keep moving, and sing Christmas Carols. Here is our version of the Advent challenge. Each day you will be able to open one box to see the challenge of the day. Share it with your friends and family or just treat yourself!

[CLICK HERE TO OPEN](#)

Share your pictures or collages events@sokolwashington.org.

Membership Dues

January 2, 2022

Your membership dues enable our Unit to be part of an American Sokol Organization and 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.
- Two Adults Membership (both voting) **\$75.00**
- 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**

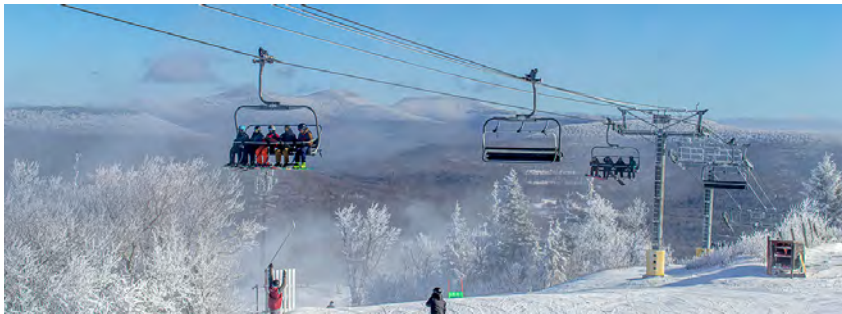
Contact: membership@sokolwashington.org

Instruction how to pay your yearly dues by cash or check are on the [website](#).

WINTER SKI TRIP is back for 2021

Ski Camp at Hunter Mountain, NY.

December 26, 2021 - January 2, 2022



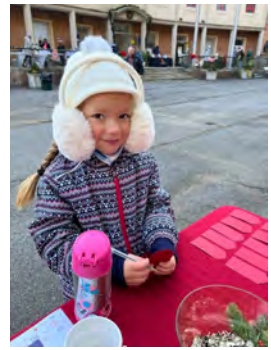
The famous Sokol winter ski trip is back this season, albeit in a smaller edition. Several families are headed to the [Hunter Mountain](#) on December 26, 2021, and will be staying until January 2, 2022. We have rented apartments/houses already, so if you are interested you will have to make your own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

Contact: events@sokolwashington.org



PERFORMANCE OF SOKOLIK AT THE Czech Christmas Market





Tis the season to be jolly!

Thank you to The Embassy of the Czech Republic as they safely brought back and hosted the annual Czech Christmas Market on November 6, 2021. Plus, our Czech and Slovak School's performance group, Sokolik, wowed the crowd with traditional Christmas and winter songs.

Stands were filled with beautiful handcrafted ornaments, Bohemian crystal, exquisite bead and glass jewelry, fine art, Moravian wines, and traditional liquors.

Guests were able to enjoy the taste and smell of mulled wine as well as an assortment of delicious Czech pastries, gingerbread, and savory cuisine.

Children enjoyed an array of live animals from the Nativity scene. Children of American Sokol Washington DC and Slavic American Sokol performed wonderful Czech Christmas carols and live music by the folk band Orchester Praževica.



St. Nicholas

DECEMBER 6th



Saint Nicholas was a Christian bishop who helped the needy and poor. After his death, the folk tale of his gift-giving spread. Saint Nicholas transformed into the legendary character called Santa Claus, who brings Christmas presents to children around the world.



his parents as a young man, and legend says he used his inheritance to help the poor and sick. A devout Christian, he served as bishop of Myra, a city that is now called Demre.

There are many tales about Saint Nicholas of Myra. One story tells how he helped three poor sisters. Their father did not have enough money to pay their dowries and thought of selling them into prostitution. Three times, Saint Nicholas secretly went to their house at night and put a money bag inside. The man used the money so that one of his daughters could marry. He also reportedly saved three men who were falsely imprisoned and sentenced to death.

Saint Nicholas died on December 6, 343. Over the years, stories of his miracles and work for the poor spread to other parts of the world. He became known as the protector of children and sailors and was associated with gift-giving. He was a popular saint in Europe until the Reformation in the 1500s, a religious movement that led to Protestantism, which turned away from honoring saints. Saint Nicholas, however, remained a significant figure in Holland.

The Dutch continued to celebrate the feast day of Saint Nicholas, December 6. It was a common practice for children to put out their shoes the night before. In the morning, they would discover the gifts that Saint Nicholas had left there for them. Dutch immigrants brought the legend of Saint Nicholas, known to them as Sint Nikolaas or, by his nickname, Sinterklaas, to America in the 1700s.



A memorial banner for Klara Sever. It features a dark background with several lit candles on the left and a portrait of Klara Sever on the right. The text is centered and reads: "In Loving Memory of KLARA SEVER 1935 - 2021 OF FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA IN LOVING MEMORY OF KLARA SEVER, WE ARE SADDENED TO ANNOUNCE HER PASSING ON NOVEMBER 6TH, 2021. A LIFE SO BEAUTIFULLY LIVED DESERVES TO BE BEAUTIFULLY REMEMBERED. PLEASE JOIN US TO MOURN THE PASSING OF KLARA".

In Loving Memory of
KLARA SEVER
1935 - 2021
OF FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA

IN LOVING MEMORY OF KLARA SEVER,
WE ARE SADDENED TO ANNOUNCE HER PASSING
ON NOVEMBER 6TH, 2021.

A LIFE SO BEAUTIFULLY LIVED DESERVES TO BE
BEAUTIFULLY REMEMBERED.
PLEASE JOIN US TO MOURN THE PASSING OF KLARA



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: No volleyball in December. We'll be back in January.

WHERE: [Jackson Middle School](#)

Main Gym (Room 304)

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

CONTACT: Radovan Kohlmyer 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"*

Days are shorter and our activities are moving inside! But we still had a great time outside as a special Sokol Run for our youngest runners, making kites, trying Ninja course, and testing our courage in dark. It is essential at this early stage to develop



forward to seeing the kids every Tuesday.



WHEN: Tuesdays at 6 pm

WHERE: Little Falls Library, Bethesda, MD

CONTACT: Veronika Clewner se.sokolem@sokolwashington.org



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. Misa Pazderova and Misa Kiss are making sure that everything runs well. Christmas is coming and our youth Sokolik group is performing at St. Nicholas party at Czech Embassy on December 5th. We continue to alternate gymnastics with cultural activities.

No school on **December 24 and 31.**

School Christmas party on December 17

Covid restrictions are still observed.



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. 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

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

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

Members

Unit has a number of benefits – discounts at all our social events; free participation in gymnastics

SOKOL WASHINGTON MEMBERSHIP DUES

- Individual Membership (adult/voting) \$40.00
- Two Adults Membership (both voting) \$75.00
- 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



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 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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