

JANUARY 2023



THIS MONTH.

Letter from our Starosta



Dear Sokol Members and Dear Friends of Sokol Washington,

I would like to wish you a healthy and prosperous 2023. We are one year older and perhaps a little bit wiser. The post-pandemic year 2022 is behind us, and we can say it was successful. Our regular weekday activities in 2022 included Friday Czech and Slovak language classes from 6:45 to 8 pm and sports for children from 8:00 to 9 pm. We also had our Tuesday activity, "Se Sokolem do Zivota," for preschoolers aged 3 to 6, focusing on developing physical skills through games. Finally, we had volleyball for adults, which stopped early this year in June. We don't have a volunteer to step in and continue organizing volleyball for our members.

[CLICK TO CONTINUE >](#)



In short, it's a stand-in for "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" and is a Czech and Slovak tradition. Derived from the French *pour féliciter* (felicitations) and abbreviated as "PF" followed by the forthcoming year, Czechs even have their own slang word for this seasonal greeting: *péefko*. The tradition dates back to the 19th century and has historically been linked to Count Karel Chotek (1783-1868), credited with introducing the phrase to Czech society. The Bohemian nobleman apparently invented this cousin to the Christmas card to politely avoid holiday visits!

Great news for procrastinators! Unlike a traditional Christmas card, a PF may be sent during Christmas, after the holidays, just before New Year's Eve, or a few days after the start of the New Year.

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IN EVERY ISSUE

Join Us and Make a Difference – Support Sokol Washington, D.C.
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Sokol Washington, D.C. Facebook & Instagram
Thank You



UPCOMING EVENTS



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, January 4th, 8:00 PM

You are welcome to join us at our Membership Meeting, share ideas, and participate in planning future events. Be a part of shaping our unit's future and meet our new board.

We meet every 1st Wednesday at 8 PM in the community library. Zoom option also available.

If you are interested, RSVP to sokol@sokolwashington.org, and we will send you more information.

All members and non-members are welcome to join us!

[Little Falls Community Library](#), **5501 Massachusetts Ave, Bethesda, MD 20816**

YOUR 2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS DUE

January 15, 2023

Your membership dues enable our Unit to be part of an American Sokol Organization and continue our many sports, outdoor, social, cultural, and educational programs.

Benefit to You

Membership in our Unit has several benefits – discounts at all our social events, and free participation in gymnastics for youth and adults.



EARLY BIRD 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**

PAYMENT

- At our Monthly Meeting only: cash, check, or credit card
- Make checks payable to *American Sokol Washington, D.C.*, and mail them to our [membership director](#):
Alexis Merka, 2216 Washington Ave #204, 20910 Silver Spring, MD, 20910

- Use the Pay Online button here with a note "membership 2023" and your name

[PAY ONLINE](#)

SAVE THE DATE!

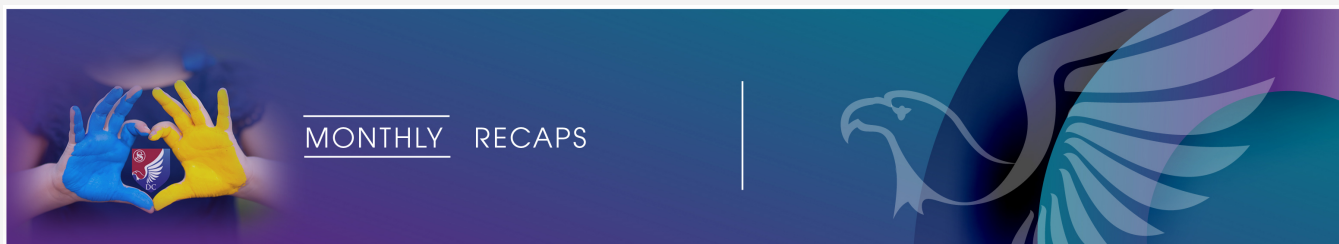
MARCH 4, 2023



WHERE: Embassy of the Czech Republic.

WHEN: March 4, 2023

More information is forthcoming.



Our Saint Nicholas/Mikulášská Festivity

Sokol families enjoyed a visit from Saint Nicholas at our very popular annual Mikulasska Feast. Joining St. Nicholas were, of course, an angel and čert (little devil). Children received their presents for singing to St. Nicholas. Our children's folklore group, Sokolik, performed as they anxiously awaited St. Nicholas's arrival. He showed up and rewarded them with gifts.

Thanks to all 20+ volunteers, including Sokol teenagers and young adults, bakers, cooks, set-up and clean-up crew, and others who made our event possible. You are much appreciated!



LIGHTNING ROD

The lightning rod was designed by the Czech Premonstratensian Prokop Diviš in 1753. The monk lived in the village of Přímětice near Znojmo and he placed the first prototype of the lightning rod in the parish garden calling it "meteorological machine". The first lightning rod placed on a building in Bohemia was the one installed in 1775 on the chateau of Měšice.

There is an ongoing debate over whether a "meteorological machine", invented by Premonstratensian priest Prokop Diviš and erected in Přímětice (now part of Znojmo), Moravia (now the Czech Republic) in June 1754, does count as an individual invention of the lightning rod. Diviš's apparatus was, according to his private theories, aimed towards preventing thunderstorms altogether by constantly depriving the air of its superfluous electricity. The apparatus was, however, mounted on a free-standing pole and probably better grounded than Franklin's lightning rods at that time, so it served the purpose of a lightning rod.[6] After local protests, Diviš had to cease his weather experiments around 1760.



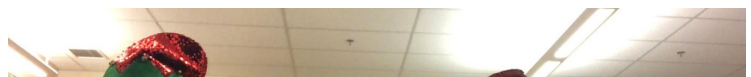
Did You Know?

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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY TWEETS





6:45 pm **Czech and Slovak Language School**

8:00 pm **Gymnastics for Children**

7:00 pm **Friday Parent's Club**

[Carderock Spring Elementary School:](#)

7401 Persimmon Tree Ln, Bethesda, MD 20817

CONTACT: school@sokolwashington.org

December is all the anticipation of the upcoming holidays. Although we still had our regular grammar classes on Friday nights, we enjoyed the holiday activities. The beginning of December is always busy preparing for baking sales and practicing carols for our Mikulaška Party. As days are shorter and shorter, we enjoy the Christmas vibrancy and aromas. This year we scented our Christmas households with herb-decorated oranges.



PEPIK'S PEEPS

SOKOL FOR LIFE

Tuesday 6:00 pm

[Dolley Madison Library](#)

1244 Oak Ridge Ave

McLean, VA 22101

CONTACT:

se.sokolem@sokolwashington.org

Winter is here! We practice rolls, sliding, snowball fights, and singing Christmas Carols indoors. Everyone is excited about Christmas. During the holidays, we had two little field trips.



1. Iceskating on the C&O canal a rare occasion. For some, skating on the canal was a new experience (extreme cold after several days of freezing temperatures). However, skating on the waterway for local Washingtonians was an old tradition.



2. Puppet show at Glen Echo Park, The Nutcracker – Tchaikovsky's familiar story of Clara and her prince.

We start again on January 10th.

Are you interested in teaching folklore dancing or Czech or Slovak language classes at any level?

Contact our school representatives for openings at school@sokolwashington.org

IN THE COMMUNITY



January 2023 Czech Presidential Election

The first round of voting in the USA is scheduled for **Thursday, January 12, and Friday, January 13, 2023.**

A possible second round of the presidential election would be held on Thursday, January 26, and Friday, January 27, 2023.



The election date in the Czech Republic is scheduled for **13 and 14 January 2023**, with the possible second round scheduled for **27 and 28 January**.

Polling stations will be located within the premises of four Czech diplomatic and consular missions.

Polling stations will be open to Czech citizens eligible to vote from 2 pm until 9 pm in local times on the above-mentioned days.

More information here: [Volba prezidenta ČR v lednu 2023](#)

AVALON
THEATRE

Czech Movie: Buko

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 08:00 PM

After losing her husband, Jarmila faces an important decision. Will she patiently wait out the rest of her life or plunge into an adventure with an uncertain ending? In this comedy, the inspiration for Jarmila's new life is a surprise in the form of a retired circus horse, Buko, left to her by her husband in his will. Jarmila, however, is afraid of



horses...

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE DETAILS](#)

Benefit Concert for SVU-DC Petr Janda – Lead Singer of the Olympic

The Czechoslovak Society of Arts and Sciences (SVU-DC) is organizing a benefit concert to support its activities in the Greater Washington DC area. The concert will feature legendary Czech rock musician Petr Janda from the Czech rock group Olympic, celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Janda, who is touring the East Coast has graciously accepted our invitation to perform at the Czech Embassy on March 1, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Beer will be offered at the event so mark your calendars. This is a unique opportunity to see and listen to a true icon of Czech rock music.



Wednesday, March 1, 2023 | 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Embassy of Czechia

3900 Spring of Freedom Street Northwest Washington, DC 20008

Tickets: [Evenbrite](#)

30 Years of Slovak Foreign Policy

Friends of Slovakia

Exclusive conversation with H.E. Radovan Javorčík, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States

In partnership with the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Washington, D.C., we invite you to attend the first event – an exclusive conversation on “30 Years of Slovak Foreign Policy” with H.E. Radovan Javorčík, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States, and FOS Vice-Chair Martina Hrvolova on



Wednesday, January 18, 2023 | 4:30 PM – 5:30

Online

Registration at [Evenbrite](#)



Monica Rokus

New Year's Lentil Soup

For Good Luck!

If you believe in superstitions, you know that we should not eat poultry on New Year's, so your luck doesn't fly away. Instead, cook a pot of lentil soup for good fortune. It is said that the more lentils you eat, the richer you will become, and the better your wealth, luck, and happiness will be in the coming year.

Ingredients

Broth from smoked meat
500 g lentils
500 ml sour cream
100 g overgrown smoked bacon
One handful of dried mushrooms
Two potatoes
One onion
Two cloves garlic
Two Bay leaves
Five pcs whole black pepper
Lemon or vinegar



Directions

The basis of a good lentil is a broth made with smoked meat. Therefore we cook it first. Boil water in a pot; add a few bay leaves, allspice, and whole black pepper. When the water boils, add the smoked meat and cook until soft. Remove the cooked meat, wrap it in foil and let it cool. Set aside the broth.

If you use dried mushrooms, you have to put them in boiling water and let them sit for a minimum of half an hour. Cut the bacon/ham into small pieces and fry. Add washed lentils and cover with smoked meat broth. Add a whole smaller onion with the skin, 2-3 bay leaves, put all the spices in a teapot, remove it after cooking and discard the spices.

Cut some potatoes very finely (those will boil and thicken the soup) and some into larger pieces. Add garlic and drained mushrooms and cook. We do not add salt because the smoked broth is salty enough.

When the lentils are done, add sour cream. You can add heavy cream instead. (To prevent the cream from curdling, pour it into a bowl and constantly stir in the hot soup. Let the soup boil slowly and season with salt, pepper, vinegar, or lemon juice if necessary.

Serve with diced smoked ham and garnish with parsley.

Bon appetit, and may your luck stay with you in the entire year.



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How to Turn on AmazonSmile in Your Amazon App: Open the App and find 'Settings' in the main menu (≡). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

[Smile while Christmas shopping!](#) Your Smile will directly benefit all our activities and is greatly appreciated!

Make a Difference - Support Our Sokol Washington

Please consider us when you decide 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.



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 sports, outdoor, social, cultural, and educational programs.

Benefit to You

Membership in our Unit has several 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

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- 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 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) non-profit organization and all of its officers are volunteers.

Published monthly by American Sokol, Washington, DC

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Photography: Dagmar Merkova, Monica Rokus

Design and Production: Monica Rokus

Distribution: Sokol Washington, D.C.

Please send news, articles, and pictures before the 20th of the prior month.

CONTACT: media@sokolwashington.org



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