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

Sokol Washington, D.C. Facebook & Instagram

Thank You



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, December 6 | 8:00 PM

You are invited to join any of our Membership Meetings, share ideas, and plan future events. Be a part of shaping our unit's future. We meet monthly in a library and take a break in July and August. Zoom option is also available.

If interested, RSVP to sokol@sokolwashington.org, and we'll send you more information. All members and non-members are welcome to join us!

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

Vánočka and Christmas Cookies



As preparation for the festivities is nearing, we invite you to show off your baking skills and donate homemade baked goods to help celebrate the season! These delicious goods will be sold at our Mikulašska Nádilka/St Nicholas Party on December 2, 4 p.m. The proceeds will go towards expenses for our unit.

Our organization is volunteer-run, and we can offer many benefits for free, including membership picnics and other community events, because of the support of many of you.

The most popular goods from generous parents in previous years have been Vánočka and Vánoční cukroví.

All your donations are greatly appreciated!



With traditional delights, baked goodies, drinks, and Christmas carols.

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation • 6301 River Road, Bethesda, MD

ADMISSION:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------|
| Adult Sokol Member..... | \$ 15.00* | Adult Non-Member..... | \$20.00* |
| Child Sokol Member | \$ 10.00* | Child Non-Member..... | \$15.00* |
| Children under 1 Year | Free | | |

* In exchange for this financial contribution, adults will receive \$15 and children \$10 in Sokol spending money ("Sokol Dollars"), which can be used to buy Dinner, Dessert, Drinks, traditional homemade baked goods from Bake Sale, 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"!

EXTRA CHARGE: \$3/PERSON FOR REGISTRATION AFTER DECEMBER 1 OR WALK-INS.

All are welcome, member or not.

CONTACT: Zuzana at events@sokolwashington.org

Czech & Slovak INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Sunday, December 17, 2023

3-4 p.m. Service | 4-5 p.m. Social Hour

We invite you to celebrate and spread joyful holiday wishes by singing Czech and Slovak Christmas carols at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Bethesda.



After the Service, we'll have a social hour with refreshments to rejoice and welcome the upcoming holiday season.

RED POINSETTIAS ARE AVAILABLE FOR



PURCHASE AND WILL BE PLACED IN CHURCH DURING OUR SERVICE

Anyone interested in remembering or honoring a loved one at Christmas with a memorial gift of poinsettias may let us know the person's name to be remembered,

along with a recommended donation of \$22.

The deadline for poinsettia purchase is December 2nd. The poinsettias will decorate the church during the Service and may be picked up afterward or left in the church.

By clicking, you will be directed to a fillable PDF.

Please follow the instructions, fill out the order form, and make your payment by clicking [HERE](#)

Contact: Monica at events@sokolwashington.org

[Emmanuel Lutheran Church](#) • [7730 Bradley Blvd.](#) • [Bethesda MD 20817](#)

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, February 24, 2024



Christmas Market at the Czech Embassy on November 4.



Under clear blue skies on a sunny day in Washington, D.C., the Czech Embassy and its grounds became a magical Czech Christmas market. People enjoyed the taste and aromas of mulled wine, a vast assortment of delicious Czech pastries & gingerbread, and savory cuisine.

Families adored various live animals from the Nativity scene for selfies and cuddles.

Our Sokol tent on the hill of the Embassy grounds was visible from a distance. Under the direction and generous dedication of Dasa Merkova, our Sokolik children dressed in a folk costume AKA kroj enthusiastically performed Czech Christmas Carols and poems. Many guests joined and sang along to some of the popular songs. All in all, it was a fabulous event!



Wood Acres Elementary School

5800 Cromwell Dr.

Bethesda, MD 20816



During the first November school session, we still practiced Christmas carols for performance at the Christmas Market at the Czech Embassy. Kids also tried out the traditional folk costumes. Seeing them put it on was a lot of fun as, in some cases, they had no idea what some pieces of clothing were used for. Thank you again to everyone who helped with the costumes!

Two weeks later, our school fell on an important day in the Czech and Slovak history known as the **Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day**. We remembered the events of 1939 and 1989 in our classes - the older children learned about the events through role-play discussions, and the younger ones prepared small lanterns and had a little procession outside.

There was no school last week in November, as everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday!

We meet every Friday at 6:40 p.m. at the Wood Acres Elementary School in Bethesda, MD.



MINI-SOKOLIK

physical education for children ages 3-6 (45 min)



Join us on Tuesday, contact Dasa (se.sokolem@sokolwashington.org) for a new location. We are learning new songs and dances, improving skills with balls and jumping, and continuing to practice for XVII – Všesokolský slet calisthenics with our caterpillar. Expect to be mostly indoors during the wintertime!

ANIMATED WOODEN BETHLEHEM IN RAJECKÁ LESNÁ

This animated wooden Slovak Bethlehem is a masterpiece by Jozef Pekara, a carver native to Rajecké Teplice. It took the skilled master over 15 years to create this unique Bethlehem. It is in the village of Rajecká Lesná, in the House of Our Lord's Nativity, which is part of the pilgrimage area around the Basilica of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary. In addition to Christ's birth in Bethlehem and his life, the carving depicts the history of the Slovak nation, featuring castles, cathedrals, mountains, and modern buildings. It includes 300 animated figures. The opening ceremony and blessing took place in 1995. Initially, only the first part of this masterpiece was available for viewing in Central Slovakia. Master Pekara finished the Bethlehem in 2000.



The Bethlehem is 8.5 meters long, 2.5 meters wide, and 3 meters high. It belongs among the largest carved Bethlehems in Europe. It is the largest woodcarving piece of its kind in the world.



IN THE COMMUNITY



The 2023 AFI European Union Film Showcase runs from Nov. 30-December 19th, bringing the best of European Cinema to the Washington, DC community!

As part of the series, the Czech sci-fi drama *RESTORE POINT (Bod Obnovy)* screens on December 1, 5, and 7 at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center. Czech filmmaker Robert Hloz, in his debut film, has crafted a riveting sci-fi detective story recalling the hallmarks of *Blade Runner* and *Minority Report*.

More about the film:

The year is 2041 and due to rising murder rates, citizens now have the right to be re-booted should they meet an untimely demise, and returned to the last time their Restore Point was saved. This controversial technology has drawn the disdain of terrorist group River of Life. When the technology's founder turns up dead without a saved Restore Point, damaged detective Em Trochinowska (Andrea Mohvlová) finds herself drawn to the complex murder case. Could River

of Life be behind the crime, or are deeper conspiracies at play? Official Selection, 2023 Fantastic Fest and Karlovy Vary film festivals.

DIR/SCR Robert Hloz; SCR Tomislav Čečka, Zdeněk Jecelín; PROD Pavel Bercík, Jan Kallista, Silvie Michajlova, Karla Stojáková, Ondrej Zima. Czechia/Slovakia/Poland/Serbia, 2023, color. 111 min. In Czech with English subtitles. NOT RATED

EVENT DETAILS:
RESTORE POINT Screenings

Dates/Times:
December 1, 9:30 pm
December 5, 9:25 pm
December 7, 9:25 pm

Film info and tickets: <https://silver.afi.com/Browsing/Movies/Details/f-0100004295>

Location:

AFI Silver Theatre | 8633 Colesville Road | Silver Spring, MD

Trailer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q4eGV24k6T4>

“Sharing the story of Sokol’s contributions to gymnastics, culture and democracy.”

<https://sokolmuseum.org>



The banner features a large crowd of gymnasts in a field, the Sokol logo (a red circle with a white 'S' and 'K'), and the text "SOKOL MUSEUM & LIBRARY". A small inset shows a historical poster with a woman in a red dress and the text "PRAGA 1912". The URL <https://sokolmuseum.org> is displayed at the bottom of the banner.

FREE VIRTUAL MUSEUM NOW AVAILABLE

- History of Sokol • History of Gymnasts • History of Prague Slets •
- Sokol Buildings in America • Sokol in America • Sokol in WWI and WWII •
- Sokol Slets in America • Sokol Souvenirs & Treasures •
- Competitive Sokol Gymnasts •





Sokol Museum and Library (SML) is a non-profit (501c3) organization providing a virtual museum and library materials for educational, cultural and historic purposes.



EVENTS - DECEMBER

<https://ncsml.org/ncsml-events/>

December 2 @ 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Ornament Personalization with Marj NejdI

National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library 1400 Inspiration Pl SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, United States

Master Czech Folk Artist Marj NejdI will be on hand in the Museum Store to personalize ornaments for you, including the 2023 Limited Edition NCSML Ornament designed by Marj herself.



December 13 @ 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Czech & Slovak Gingerbread House

These series have included traditional Czech and Slovak-decorated gingerbread cookies for the last few years. This year, you will take it further and prepare the entire gingerbread house the same way Czechs and Slovaks do.



December 16 @ 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Vánočka – Sweet Czech Braided Bread

Vánočka is often called “Houska” in the USA. The name “vánočka” comes from “Vánoce” which means Christmas in Czech. It is a scrumptious sweet bread with raisins and almonds, which is very common to serve on Christmas morning in the Czech Republic (December 24th).

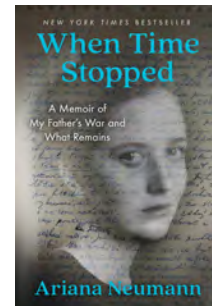


December 18 @ 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Czech'em Out Book Club

Skala Bartizal Library 1400 Inspiration Pl SW, Cedar Rapids, IA, United States

Join NCSML volunteer Steve Pederson in the Skala Bartizal Library this month, where we'll discuss *When Time Stopped* by Ariana Neumann. Czech'em Out Book Club meets on the third Monday of each month following the reading of each month's selected book.



Would you like to join virtually? Email info@ncsml.org for instructions on how to join via Zoom.



THE XVII ALL-SOKOL SLET JUNE 30 – JULY 5, 2024, PRAGUE, CZECHIA

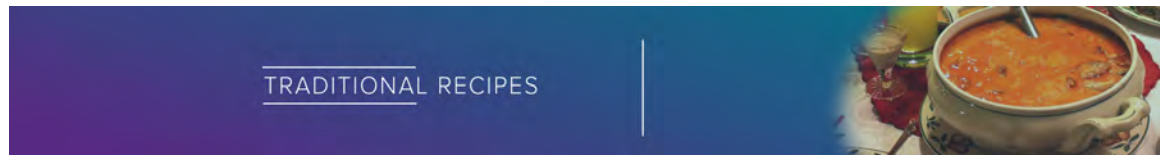
Update: We have our equipment for slet. We will send an email about the first meeting soon. The Sokol Gathering in Prague is in full preparation mode and soon we will be too. Stay tuned.

Rehearsals will happen about once a month. Contact: slet24@sokolwashington.org

Children ages 3-7 will practice during our regular Tuesday evenings “With Sokol for Life.”



Watch the videos and get inspired!



Makovník (Slovak Poppyseed Rolls)

Traditional cake has poppy seed paste between layers of dough. Some add raisins, almonds, honey, and orange peel to enhance flavors.

Makovník is quite popular throughout Central Europe in countries like Austria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, and Serbia.

When cut, it has a unique appearance, with the dough and the poppy seed filling winding around each other in a spiral.



When served - makovník is dusted with powdered sugar. The cake is

typically for festivities such as Christmas or other winter holidays.

INGREDIENTS

Poppy Seed Filling

½ pound poppy seeds

¾ cup white sugar

½ cup hot milk

One tablespoon of melted butter

One teaspoon of lemon juice

(Alternate) Filling for Walnut:

One egg white

1 tsp vanilla extract or paste

1/2 lb raw walnuts, coarsely ground

Bread:

½ cup warm water (100 degrees F/38 degrees C)

Two tablespoons white sugar

1 (.25 ounce) package active dry yeast

2 cups all-purpose flour, or more if needed

½ teaspoon salt

¼ cup of butter

One large egg, separated - white reserved



INSTRUCTIONS

Make the filling: Place poppy seeds into a food processor; process until seeds are ground, about a minute.

Mix poppy seeds, 3/4 cup sugar, hot milk, one tablespoon melted butter, and lemon juice in a bowl until combined;

cover and refrigerate while making bread. The filling will thicken as it chills.

Make the bread: Pour warm water into a small bowl; add sugar and sprinkle the yeast. Let stand until the yeast softens and forms a creamy foam for about 5 minutes.

Whisk flour and salt together in a bowl. Cut in butter with two knives or a pastry blender until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add yeast mixture and egg yolk; stir to make a soft dough.

Turn dough onto a floured work surface and knead until smooth and slightly springy, about 5 minutes. If the dough is too sticky, knead in more flour, about two tablespoons at a time. Cut dough into two equal pieces. Roll each piece out into a 12x16-inch rectangle.

Spread half of the poppy seed filling over each rectangle, leaving a 1-inch border. Fold the 1-inch border back over the filling on all sides and press down. Pick the shorter side of a dough rectangle and roll it like a jelly roll; repeat with the second rectangle. Pinch ends together or tuck ends under to prevent filling from leaking out.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper; place filled loaves seam-side down on the baking sheet and allow them to rise in a warm place until doubled about 1 hour.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Beat egg white in a bowl until frothy; brush

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Beat egg white in a bowl until frothy, brush loaves with beaten egg white.

Bake in preheated oven until dark golden brown on top, 30 to 40 minutes. Remove loaves from the oven and cover them with a clean kitchen towel until cool to keep the crust soft. Cool completely before slicing.

DONATE NOW

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 and tax-deductible.

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

Join Us and Become a Member

We appreciate your interest in becoming a member of Sokol Washington.

Benefits to our Unit: Your membership dues enable us 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 adults, and free participation in pick-up volleyball, Film club, Newsletter from American Sokol, our national organization.

PAY ONLINE

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

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

We can only flourish as an organization with the constant help of our many volunteers. That's why it's vital 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 take advantage of our MailChimp campaigns. Please ensure that our e-mail sokol@sokolwashington.org is included in your Contacts/Mailing list and does not end up in your Spam or Trash.

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

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

CONTACT: media@sokolwashington.org