

Za Boha a Národ



For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

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Patron of our Group 7

2014 Marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Joseph Murgas

February 17, 2014 marked the sesquicentennial of the birth of the Rev. Joseph Murgas, one of the most dynamic, prolific and gifted Slovak immigrants to come to America. He was a spiritual mover and shaker as well as a pioneer in wireless telegraphy. The 150th anniversary



of Father Murgas' birth is certainly worthy of note. Father Murgas was born on February 17, 1864, son of Jozef and Mary Murgas in Tajov, a village located in the heart of Slovakia, just outside Banska Bystrica. He was a man of diverse talents. During his high school years, he took an interest in the fine arts and electricity. He began his theological studies for the priesthood as well as studies at the celebrated Academy of Art in Munich. In 1886, he began his studies and experimentation in wireless telegraphy. During these years, he gained knowledge of French, Ger-

man, advanced physics and astronomy. He was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Banska Bystrica in 1888. He continued his studies in drawing and painting. Father Murgas' reputation as an artist grew and he was recognized as one of the finest in the Kingdom of Hungary, where the Slovaks were among the subject minorities. He was commissioned to create great murals in the newly completed parliament building in Budapest. As a Slovak, he refused to create these murals which depicted a fallacy of history. They portrayed the duplicity of the Hungarians and the prostration of the Slovaks. Be-

cause of his pro-Slovak sentiments, his works were banned. Some of his paintings were covered or painted over.

Father Murgas knew of the spiritual needs of the many Slovaks who were emigrating to the United States. At the age of 32, he embarked on his journey to America. He arrived in New York on April 6, 1896, and journeyed to the Diocese of Scranton. He stayed briefly in Pittston, Pa. but then moved to Wilkes-Barre. He completed a church that was already started by his friend, Father Matthew Jankola, and became the founding pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Par-



Our Supreme Chaplain, Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdvic, right, and the Rev. Philip A. Altavilla national president of the Slovak Catholic Federation, are shown in front of the plaque honoring Father Joseph Murgas at the main post office in Bratislava, Slovakia, during a recent visit to the Slovak capital. The plaque was erected through the efforts and leadership of our Honorary Supreme Officer, Monsignor Francis J. Beeda, S.T.L.

International Slovak Catholic Sokol Sporting Events Scheduled for 2014

APRIL 25 - 27

23rd International

Basketball & Volleyball Tournament

Dubois High School + Dubois, Pennsylvania
Participants housed at the Fairfield Inn & Suites

MAY 16 - 18

68th International Bowling Tournament

SuperBowl Lanes + Canton, Michigan
Participants housed at the Holiday Inn Express

JUNE 27 - 29

27th International Softball Tournament

Kirby Park Fields + Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
Oaktree Golf Club + Tam-O-Shanter Golf Club
Middlesex, Pennsylvania

Participants housed at the Park Inn by Radisson

AUGUST 14 - 17

International Clinic - Kurz in preparation

for the 47th International Slet

Camp Fitch + North Springfield, Pennsylvania

Celebrate your membership in America's Greatest Slovak Gymnastic and Athletic Fraternity. Mark your calendars and plan to participate!

Zdar Boh!

Edward D. Moeller

Supreme Director of Sports & Athletics

ish. A new gothic church was dedicated in 1908 and he himself created many of the interior paintings and decorations. That year, he invited the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius to staff his new parish school, the first mission of the then fledging congregation. In 1911, he founded the Slovak Catholic Federation, the representative body of American Slovak Catholics.

On the parish property, he built a private laboratory and at his own expense erected two transmitting and receiving towers for wireless communication. His experiments led to the discovery of the radio spark gap, which became a basic device in radio transmission. Father Murgas' invention was patented in 1905. His experiments with wireless telegraphy preceded those of Marconi. As a matter of fact, G. Marconi made a special visit to Wilkes-Barre to study Father Murgas' system.

In addition to his scientific and spiritual activities, Father Murgas labored on behalf of the Slovaks who were then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He played an important role in the emancipation of the Slovaks from Hungarian rule following the First World War. He was a signator of the Pittsburgh

Agreement, signed in the presence of Thomas G. Masaryk in 1918 which would guarantee the rights of the Slovaks within the framework of the newly proposed Republic of Czecho-Slovakia. At that time, Masaryk himself invited Father Murgas to return home and be a part of the new republic which he helped to establish. He spearheaded the drive of the Slovak League of America and raised more than one million dollars on behalf of Czecho-Slovakia. In 1920, Father Murgas traveled to Czecho-Slovakia. During his visit to Prague, he sought an audience with President Masaryk, who had initially invited him to be a part of the new state. He was dismayed to learn that Masaryk refused to receive him.

Upon his return to America, Father Murgas devoted his final years of service and leadership within the Slovak community, supporting the work of our Slovak fraternal as well as the Slovak Catholic Federation and the Slovak League of America. Group 7 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol chose Father Murgas as its patron. He died at Sacred Heart Rectory in Wilkes-Barre on May 15, 1929. His funeral on May 18 was one of the largest in the city's his-

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Introducing our newest members



Delaney Liliana Buck, born March 20, 2013 is the daughter of Christopher and Megan Buck of Poland, Oh. She was enrolled as a member of Wreath 54 in Youngstown, Oh.



Jacob Taylor Wolski, born January 22, 2010, is the son of Christopher and Christine Kasper Wolski of Jefferson Hills, Pa. He was enrolled as a member of Assembly 16 in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Olivia Angelina Pasquarelli, born June 1, 2013, is the daughter of Olindo and Jennifer Shoberg Pasquarelli of Carnegie, Pa. She was enrolled as a member of Wreath 22 in Pittsburgh, Pa.



Anderson Jozef Zifcak, born September 6, 2013, is the son of Brian and Nicole Renee Zifcak of Oxford, Mass. He was enrolled as a member of Assembly 28 in East Douglas, Mass.

SUNDAY/WEEKEND MASS!

A gift you can give your family every week

In this hectic pace of a busy family, getting to Mass on the weekend can be a struggle. Between basketball games, scout meetings, dance lessons and play dates, going to Mass is one more activity competing for precious time. Yet it is the most important thing you can do for your family all week. Consider some of the ways your family will benefit from weekly Mass attendance.

Tradition and Security. How many things do you still do today that you have done since you were a small child? No matter what other changes take place in your lives, the Mass is a constant to which your children can cling.

Children learn by repetition, through consistency and from example. When weekend Mass is part of their regular routine, children learn how to maintain the habit of weekly attendance. Seeing the importance you place on the habit teaches them obedience and discipline.

Visiting the rest of the family. When in Church, our children are surrounded by the Body of Christ, people who care about and pray for them. Mass becomes an oasis in an increasingly hostile world.

The week starts with a God-centered focus. Attending Mass on the weekend helps children learn that God comes first not just on the weekend, but every day.

Zdar Boh!
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdic
Supreme Chaplain



24th Slovak Easter Customs Breakfast and Mass in Pittsburgh

The Slovak Customs Group and Cultural Diversity Committee of Prince of Peace Parish on Pittsburgh's historic South Side will host the 24th annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast on Saturday, March 29. This annual event celebrates Slovak Easter traditions and heritage. The program begins in St. Adalbert's Church located at 160 South 15th Street, South Side. The Rosary will be recited in Slovak beginning at 9:45 p.m. At 10 a.m., Mass will be celebrated in Slovak with the Rev. Peter Haledaj, a priest of the Youngstown Diocese, who is currently serving in East Liverpool, Oh. as celebrant and homilist.

After Mass, everyone is invited to the Parish Center, located at 81 South 13th Street to enjoy a brunch featuring the foods enjoyed by Slovaks at Easter: Sunka(ham), Syrek(egg cheese), Chren(beets and horseradish), klobasy, paska(sweet bread), followed by nut and poppyseed kolace. The brunch is free of charge, however donations will be accepted. At the Parish Center there will be colorful cultural displays depicting village life in Slovakia and a shop for hand made gifts imported from Slovakia for sale. In addition, demonstrations of folk crafts will be featured. There will be homemade baked goods for sale as well as a Slovak Auction and raffles. An enjoyable time is assured as the folk arts traditions and music of Slovakia come to life on Pittsburgh's South Side.

For additional information on

(Continued on page 3)

Irene S. Tupy celebrates her 101st Birthday!

Our well-known and beloved Chicago Sokolka, Irene M. Tupy celebrated her 101st birthday on



January 23rd. She is shown on the above photo with a relative and our Pittsburgh Sokol, Tom Lench. Irene was born in the Windy City on January 23, 1913, daughter of immigrant parents, Joseph and Mary Susek who were natives of Bojnice located in the heart of central Slovakia. Irene was educated locally and served for many years as the

parish at Our Lady Mother of the Church rectory.

Irene has been a life-long Sokolka, competing in our Group 4 and national Slets in her youth. In 1934, she married the love of her life, John S. Tupy at the former Sacred Heart Slovak Church. Their 55-year marriage concluded with John's passing in 1989. She and John were active in our organization for many years in the Chicagoland Slovak community. She served for many years as an officer of our former Wreath 92. Her husband John was an officer of our former Assembly 150. Together, they were regulars at various Group 4 activities and were delegates to many national conventions. Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Irene as she celebrates this milestone in her very fruitful life. Happy birthday and Zdar Boh!



New England fraternalists collected non-perishable food items during the annual meeting of the New England Fraternal Alliance(NEFA) held in North Falmouth, Mass. recently. Promoting this outreach program which aided the local food pantry, were, l-r; Joseph and Margaret Goda, Group 2 President Eileen S. Wilson, who is a past president of the New England Fraternal Alliance; and Irene Grabowy, second vice president of the NEFA.



Officers of the New England Fraternal Alliance who will serve in 2014 are shown above following their election at the annual meeting held recently at the Sea Crest Beach Hotel in North Falmouth, Mass. Officers shown above include seated, l-r; Marion Varga, CSA Fraternal Life Insurance Society; George Haddad, Knights of Columbus, first vice president; Thomas King, Catholic Association of Foresters, president; Irene Grabowy, Polish National Alliance of the U.S. of North America, 2nd vice president; and John Kamenitsky, Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, secretary-treasurer. Standing, l-r; Theresa Goss, Catholic Association of Foresters; Daniel F. Tanzone, Slovak Catholic Sokol, chaplain; Albert Costa, Luso-American Life Insurance Society; Joseph Goda, National Slovak Society of the U.S.A.; Janet King, Catholic Association of Foresters; and Daniel F. Michalak, Polish Falcons of America. The New England Fraternal Alliance represents more than 350,000 fraternalists residing in the six New England States.

Sokol Calendar

SAT.MARCH 1

■ Traditional Pre-Lenten "Fasiangy" celebration hosted by Assembly 20 of the Slovak League of America at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3200 South 103rd St., (103rd & Oklahoma Ave.) Greenfield, Wis. from 6-11 p.m.; traditional Slovak food, entertainment and dancing; \$5.00 per person; for information call Betty Valent (414) 425-6137.

■ Hunters pre-Lenten dinner and dance hosted by the Slovak Cultural Center of Linden, N.J. at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church Hall, 320 Washington St., Perth Amboy, N.J. beginning at 7 p.m.; music by the Joseph Jurasi Band, tickets are \$35.00 per person, for reservations call Jan Draculin (908)541-0372 or Mary Karch (732)572-2331.

■ 62nd Florida Slovak Day at the cultural center of The Slovak Garden, 3110 Howell Branch Road, Winter Park, Fla., doors open at 12 noon, luncheon at 1 p.m., cultural program begins at 3 p.m.; music for listening and dancing pleasure by the Europa Band, \$30.00 per person, for reservations call tel. (407)677-6894.

■ Night at the Races benefit for St. John the Evangelist Parish in the Seton Auditorium, William St. Pittston, Pa. doors open at 6 p.m.

SUN.MARCH 2

■ 9th annual Sokol Children's Bowlingfest hosted by Group 1 at Garden Palace Bowling Lanes, 42 Lakeview Ave., Clifton, N.J., 2-4 p.m. free of charge, reservations necessary, call Eric Topczij (973)985-0134.

■ Annual convention of The Slovak Garden, A Home for American Slovaks, 3110 Howell Branch Road, Winter Park, Fla. beginning with Mass in Slovak at 11 a.m., registration at 12 noon, luncheon at 1 p.m., meeting begins at 2 p.m.

MON.MARCH 3

■ Wreath 22 meeting at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 7 p.m.

SUN.MARCH 9

■ Group 1 Spaghetti Dinner at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, 218 Ackerman Ave., Clifton, N.J. beginning at 4 p.m., \$7.00 adults, \$6.00 seniors and \$4.00 for children, ages 6-12, free of charge for children under age 6.

■ Celebration of the 75th anniversary of the independence of the first Slovak Republic hosted by Assembly 1 of the Slovak League of America at St. John Nepomucene Parish Hall, 406 East 67th St., New York, N.Y., Slovak Mass in church at 11 a.m., social program to follow at 1 p.m., free admission.

■ Ethnic Heritage Dinner of St. John the Evangelist Parish in the Seton Cafeteria, William St., Pittston, Pa. beginning at 1:30 p.m., call (570)654-0053.

■ 75th anniversary celebration of the independence of the first Slovak Republic at St. Simon the Apostle Parish, 5157 South California Ave., Chicago, Ill. beginning with Mass celebrated in Slovak at 10:30 a.m. by the Rev. Kristian Libant, C.M. in church followed by lecture by Ivan Kralik, social program and luncheon

in the church social hall.

* Wreath 1 patronal feast of St. Francis of Rome beginning with attendance at the 9 a.m. at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 1950 Barnum Ave., Stratford, Conn. which will be celebrated for the living and deceased members.

MARCH 11-12

■ Slovak Catholic Federation Executive Board Meeting at the East Mountain Inn and Suites, 600 Wildflower Dr. #115, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. beginning on Tuesday at 3 p.m.

SUN.MARCH 16

■ 75th anniversary celebration of the independence of the first Slovak Republic hosted by Assembly 34 of the Slovak League of America at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, Mich. beginning with Mass in Slovak at 11:30 a.m. followed by luncheon and program in the parish social hall.

■ Assembly 25 & Wreath 15 annual Lenten Mass and Communion Breakfast beginning with the 8 a.m. Mass at the Church of St. John the Baptist followed by breakfast at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, Perryopolis, Pa.

MARCH 18-20

■ Annual Audit of the Supreme Auditors for the year 2013 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Home Office in Passaic, N.J. beginning on Tuesday at 9 a.m.

MARCH 21-22

■ Quarterly meeting of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Supreme Board of Directors at the Home Office in Passaic, N.J. beginning at 8:30 a.m.

SAT. MARCH 22

■ Group 9 bowling tournament at the LakeView Bowling Lanes, Ebensburg, Pa. beginning at 2 p.m.; \$25.00 per person includes dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the Lilly Sokol Club, for reservations call Kitty Sweeney, (814)886-2473.

■ Fraternalist of the Year dinner honoring Edward U. DePersis hosted by the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh at the Sheraton Hotel-Station Square, Pittsburgh, Pa., reception 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m., \$70.00 per person, for reservations call Kayla Ellis at (412) 343-7077.

SUN.MARCH 23

■ St. Joseph's Day Celebration, patronal feast day observance of Assembly 182 at St. John Nepomucene Parish, 411 East 66th St., New York City beginning with Slovak Mass in church at 11 a.m. followed by luncheon and fraternal program in the parish social hall.

SAT.MARCH 29

■ 24th annual Slovak Mass and Easter Customs Breakfast hosted by Prince of Peace Parish, Rosary at 9:45 a.m., Mass at 10 a.m. at the Church of St. Adalbert, 160 South 15th St., followed by breakfast and exhibit at the Parish Center, 81 South 13th St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa., free of charge, for information call (412)481-8380.

■ 46th annual Eastern District Basketball & Volleyball Tournament hosted by Group 3 at Douglas High School, Douglas Elementary School and the Douglas Municipal Center in East Douglas, Mass. beginning at 8:30 a.m., call Roger Manyak

(508)476-2668.

SAT.APRIL 5

■ 4th wine tasting afternoon hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association at the Sonoma Grille, 947 Penn Ave., downtown Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 1 p.m., the program includes appetizers and live music, \$30.00 for WP-SCA members or \$35.00 for non-members; for reservations call Joe at (412)531-2990 during the day or Alberta at (412)343-5031 in the evening.

SUN.APRIL 6

■ Group 1 annual bowling tournament at Paul's Bowling Academy, 377 Crooks Ave., Paterson, N.J. beginning at 12:30 p.m., \$20.00 per person, women's teams welcome; call Eric Topczij at (973)985-0134.

■ Group 5 bowling tournament at Yorktown Bowling Lanes, Parma Heights, Oh. beginning at 12:30 p.m., for reservations call Marty Zemanek at (440)225-8676.

SUN.APRIL 13

■ Assembly 34, St. George patronal feast day observance at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Second Street and 13th Ave., N.E., Minneapolis, Minn. beginning with Mass at 9 a.m. followed by a full breakfast in the Father George Dargay Memorial Hall of the parish, free of charge, call James T. Genosky (763)789-9196.

APRIL 25-27

■ 23rd International Men's Basketball and Women's Volleyball Tournament at Dubois High School, Dubois, Pa.

Group 5 Bowling Tournament set for Sunday, April 6

Group 5, "Jan Holly" will host its annual bowling tournament on Sunday, April 6 in Parma Heights, Oh. The competition will be held at the Yorktown Bowling Lanes beginning at 12:30 p.m. Hosting this year's fraternal competition will be Wreath 153 of Parma, Oh. Following the competition on the lanes, we will enjoy the traditional banquet at the same facility. An enjoyable afternoon is assured.

As a reminder, we will bowl as 4-men and 4-women member teams this year. Twenty lanes have been reserved for our fraternal event. Cost of the tournament is \$30.00 per person which includes \$10.00 for bowling; \$13.00 for the banquet; and \$7.00 entry fee. For any additional questions regarding this year's competition, feel free to contact me at tel. (440)225-8676. We hope to see bowlers from all our Group lodges at this year's tournament.

Zdar Boh!

Marty Zemanek

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS

MARCH 12TH

In keeping with our biweekly publishing schedule, the next issue of the *Slovak Catholic Falcon* will be that of Wednesday, March 12th. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Thursday, March 6th. View *e-Falcon* on our website: www.slovakcatholicosokol.org. Thanking you for your continued cooperation in this matter, I remain Zdar Boh!

Daniel F. Tanzone, Editor

From the Desk of the Supreme President

Thoughts on Fraternalism

by Larry M. Glugosh

This past week we celebrated our new national holiday in Canada called Family Day. It occurs on the 3rd weekend in February and is a national event to honor and celebrate our families. The idea originated in 2009 and a bill was passed to create this national holiday. The February date was selected by the Canadian government to align with President's Day in the United States, since our countries are often linked with national holidays.



On this day, we give thanks to our many blessings with our families. It is a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon our cherished heritage and embrace some quality time and experiences with our family members. Many individuals took advantage of the holiday weekend to plan for their future by investing in their children's education fund or buying a 401K fund for their retirement. Hopefully some of our members even added some more insurance for their families. I sincerely hope all of our members enjoyed their long weekend activities, regardless of what side of the Canada/US border you reside.

February is quickly coming to a close and soon we will enter into the 40 days of Lent. This year it begins on Wednesday March 5th which is a little later than most years. With the start of Lent, we should take a moment to spiritually reflect on our daily lives. Often we experience busy and stressful daily schedules, which make us unaware of the many wonderful blessings we have around us each day. Our family and friends should be the cornerstone of our existence; however they sometimes play a secondary role to seemingly more important issues of the day, such as our work, social commitments and household activities that never seem to get done.

During the Season of Lent we will give up and/or sacrifice something we truly enjoy. This could be a special food, dessert or even a fun activity. This year I have decided to give up on wine, which is a passion of mine especially during dinner. The purpose of this personal and individual sacrifice is to demonstrate our love, thankfulness and spiritual appreciation for God's gifts and His ultimate sacrifice to us all. During the Lenten season I believe we should also take a moment to give more of ourselves to our loved ones, who support and comfort us throughout the year.

To conclude, I would ask that each of you take a moment to thank God for the most important blessing of all, which is our supportive and caring family and friends. They are the individuals, who constantly give us strength, purpose and meaning. Let them know how important and special they are in your life and never take them for granted. We never know when we might lose the privilege and opportunity to share these special moments and memories.

May God bless all of you as we give thanks for our many countless blessings!

24th Slovak Easter Customs Breakfast and Mass in Pittsburgh

(Continued from page 2)

This year's Slovak Mass & Easter Customs Breakfast call the Parish Office at (412)481-8380. Father Bernard Hancarik, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish, which includes the former St. Matthew's Slovak Parish, extends a cordial invitation to area residents to join

in this celebration of one of our most treasured Slovak faith traditions. Our Sokol of Assembly 16, Paul J. Zatek serves as chairman of the Slovak Customs Group and looks forward to seeing many Western Pennsylvania Sokols and Sokolky at this year's Mass and breakfast.

NEW BUSINESS SUBMITTED IN JANUARY 2014

RECOMMENDERS	CITY/STATE	CERTIFICATES	VOLUME	POINTS
Edith M. Babik	Youngstown, OH	1	\$5,000	57
Roger J. Manyak	East Douglas, MA	1	5,000	69
James C. Matlon	Boonton, NJ	1	15,000	86
Sarah Nejdlik	Milwaukee, WI	1	10,000	87
Albert J. Suess, Jr.	Pittsburgh, PA	3	21,000	225
Totals		7	\$56,000	524

ANNUITIES

RECOMMENDERS	CITY/STATE	CERTIFICATES	VOLUME	POINTS
Albert J. Suess, Jr.	Pittsburgh, PA	1	\$22,000	135
Totals		1	\$22,000	135



REFLECTOR ...

Jotings from Sokol and Slovak life

School Sisters of St. Francis Spring Festival in Pittsburgh

The School Sisters of St. Francis in Pittsburgh, Pa., who have enjoyed a more than century-long legacy of promoting quality, faith-centered education in our country, announce with great enthusiasm their 2014 Spring Festival. This year's Spring Festival benefit has been set for Sunday, April 27 at their Motherhouse, Mount Assisi Convent located at 934 Forest Avenue in the Ross/Bellevue section of Pittsburgh. Festivities begin at 12 noon and continue until 5 p.m. This special day will include delicious homemade dinners, a plant sale, a bake sale including Slovak specialties, bingo, great prizes, kids games and other fun activities for all ages and every member of the family.

Festival ticket donations are a major source of income for the benefit. Tickets may be requested at \$5.00 apiece by calling the Sisters at tel. (412)761-6004. Each ticket details the prize for each day in April and May 2014. Each ticket includes 64 opportunities to win based on the Pennsylvania Lottery evening Big 4 drawing. Ticket stubs and donations are due back to Mount Assisi no later than Friday, April 18. Winners will be promptly notified. Checks payable to School Sisters of St. Francis should be sent to Mount Assisi Convent, 934 Forest Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15207. All donations are tax deductible.

The School Sisters of St. Francis began their ministry upon their arrival in Pittsburgh in 1913. They have educated generations of Sokol members in a number of Slovak parishes primarily in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. They deserve our continued support. Sister Bernadine Marie Stemnock, OSF, Provincial Minister, along with Nicole Knupsky, chairperson of this year's Spring Festival, look forward to seeing many Sokols and Sokolky from the Pittsburgh area at this year's festival.

Edward U. DePersis to be honored as Fraternalist of the Year

The Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh (FSGP) will honor Edward "Ed" U. DePersis, a longtime consultant to many fraternal benefit societies, as its 2014 Fraternalist of the Year. The FSGP is comprised of 17 fraternal benefit societies and nine business-associated groups, including the Slovak Catholic Sokol, which represent over one million members. The FSGP has been serving the fraternal benefit society industry for more than 67 years.

Each year, the FSGP selects in individual member who displays active leadership in promoting the fraternal spirit and who has made valuable contributions to the fraternal community. Brother Ed will be honored by the FSGP at the annual banquet on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at the Sheraton Hotel-Station Square in Pittsburgh. The evening begins with a reception at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$70 each and tables of 10 may be reserved. For reservations, contact Kayla Ellis at Bruce & DePersis by phoning (412)343-7077.

Brother Ed has been serving the fraternal benefit system since 1970 when he joined the Catholic Knights of St. George as corporate secretary. He has been continually active in the FSGP, serving in several positions, including president. Prior to 1970, he spent a number of years in the commercial insurance area. In 1980, Ed joined the firm of Bruce & Bruce Consulting Actuaries. In 1996, in recognition of his contributions to the firm, the Pittsburgh office was designated as Bruce & DePersis. He is a knowledgeable and respected fraternalist.

Ed is a proud first generation America. His parents emigrated from Torrice, Italy. He received his bachelor of arts degree in economics from the University of Pittsburgh. He is the father of four children and five grandchildren, and he has four stepchildren,

11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He late wife, Valerie Wojciak DePersis, was a former vice president of the Polish Falcons of America and secretary of the FSGP. She passed away in 2010.

Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Brother Ed DePersis on his selection as the 2014 Fraternalist of the Year of the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh. He is a credit to the fraternal benefit system and well-deserving of this honor. Aguri Eduardo and Zdar Boh!

Plans for Year of Consecrated announced by Pope Francis

Pope Francis has called for a special yearlong focus on consecrated life, asking the Church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to "wake up the world" with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope, a Vatican official said.

"Consecrated men and women are aware that besides recounting the great stories they have written in the past, they are called to write a no-less-beautiful and great story in the future," said Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

At a news conference January 31, the cardinal spoke about plans for the 2015 Year for Consecrated Life, which Pope Francis announced in November.

The congregation hopes Pope Francis will celebrate the year's opening Mass November 21, when the Church marks a day of prayer for cloistered religious. The events would conclude one year later on the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Second Vatican Council decree "Perfectae Caritatis" on the appropriate renewal of the religious life.

The Vatican's Statistical Yearbook reported that at the end of 2011, there were more than 903,300 religious priests, brothers and sisters in the world; however, that figure includes those with temporary vows.

- CNS

17th Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves heritage tour to Slovakia

The time is NOW to get ready to visit Slovakia with the Youngstown, Ohio - Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Heritage Tour set for July 7 to July 21, 2014. Once again, the tour will be hosted by our well-known Sokol couple and cultural activists, Jim and Kay Bench of Derry, Pa.

Start talking with your grandparents or older members of your family to get information on your ancestral home in Slovakia. You will have a wonderful feeling walking the streets of the village of your ancestors.

You will enjoy rafting on the Dunajec river, which forms the natural border between Slovakia and Poland, visit Litmanova where there have been apparitions of the Blessed Mother in the 1990s, visit historic Nitra and the oldest church in Slovakia, visit the fairy tale castle of Bojnice, enjoy museums, kolibas, traditional Slovak food, be entertained by folk groups and attend the exciting Kezmarok fair and watch craftsmen and women make their wares. These are just a few of the highlights of the tour.

Make your plans now to join this wonderful tour. Contact Jim and Kay Bench at tel. (724) 858-5843 or (724)771-7900 or email jimbench@yahoo.com for further details of the trip. Paul Hudak at Adventure International Travel in Lakewood, Oh. will be handling all the travel arrangements. He can be reached at (216)228-7171 or on the toll free number 800-542-2487 or fax (216) 228-7174.

The total tour cost is \$3,849 per person from Washington, D.C. and \$3,899 from Pittsburgh. This includes \$516 airline fuel charge but excludes air taxes of \$153 (Washington) or \$167 (Pittsburgh) Both airline fuel charges and taxes are quoted as of November 2013 and are subject to change until final tour payment is

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The Word of God ...

Gospel for the Eighth Sunday of the Year - March 2nd

Matthew 6:24-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

"No one can serve two masters.

He will either hate one

and love the other,

or be devoted to one

and despise the other.

You cannot serve God and mammon.

"Therefore I tell you,

do not worry about your life,

what you will eat or drink,

or about your body,

what you will wear.

Is not life more than food

and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds in the sky;

they do not sow or reap,

they gather nothing into barns,

yet your heavenly Father feeds them.

Are not you more important than they?

Can any of you by worrying

add a single moment to your life-span?

Why are you anxious about clothes?

Learn from the way the wildflowers grow

They do not work or spin.

But I tell you that

not even Solomon in all his splendor

was clothed like one of them.

If God so clothes the grass of the field

which grows today

and is thrown into the oven tomorrow,

will he not much more provide for you,

O you of little faith?

So do not worry and say,

"What are we to eat?" or

"What are we to drink?" or

"What are we to wear?"

All these things the pagans seek.

Your heavenly Father knows

that you need them all.

But seek first the kingdom of God

and his righteousness, and

all these things will be given you besides

Do not worry about tomorrow;

tomorrow will take care of itself

Sufficient for a day is its own evil.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent - March 9th

Matthew 4: 1 - 11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert

to be tempted by the devil.

He fasted for forty days and forty nights,

and afterwards he was hungry.

The tempter approached and said to him,

"If you are the Son of God,

command that these stones

become loaves of bread."

He said in reply,

"It is written:

"One does not live on bread alone,

but on every word that comes forth

from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city,

and made him stand on the parapet of the temple

and said to him,

"If you are the Son of God,

throw yourself down.

For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you

(Continued on page 16)

Lodge Jottings

BRIDGEPORT, CONN. Wreath 1

We will commemorate and celebrate the feast of our patroness, St. Frances of Rome - by participating in the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church, 1950 Barnun Avenue in Stratford, Conn. on the actual feast day, Sunday, March 9th. The liturgy will be celebrated for the living and deceased members of our Wreath. Due to the ever-changing weather, we will delay our traditional gift-bearing visits to our Sister Sokolky who are long-term health care and home bound, until sometime in April. Family members are asked to contact Eileen Wilson at tel. (203)378-8837 with name(s) of our member(s) they would like

to visit in this traditional fraternal outreach program.

It was in the spring of 1906 that a group of young Slovak immigrant women gathered at the former St. John Nepomucene Church social hall in Bridgeport and organized what became Wreath 1, the oldest female lodge of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Our pioneers chose St. Frances of Rome as patroness of the Wreath. We are often referred to as "The Mother of the Slovak Catholic Sokol." Come join us on March 9 as we celebrate 108 years of Sokol fraternalism in the life of our Wreath. Fraternally, may I remain

Zdar Boh!
Eileen S. Wilson
President

46th Eastern District Basketball and Volleyball Tournament on March 29

Group 3, "Rev. Edmund Mochak" of East Douglas, Massachusetts will serve as host for the 46th Annual Eastern District Basketball and Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, March 29. The games will be played at the Douglas High School, the Douglas Elementary School and the Douglas Municipal Center Gymnasium. All three facilities are in walking distance of each other. The Sokols and Sokolky of Group 3 will be providing a traditional New England welcome to all tournament participants.

Teams from the Groups comprising the Eastern District are cordially invited to participate in the annual sports competition. The following belong to the Eastern District: Group 1, Passaic, N.J., Group 2, Bridgeport, Conn., Group 7, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Group 10, Beth-

lehem, Pa., Group 12, Reading, Pa., Group 18, Lansford, Pa. as well as the host, Group 3 of East Douglas, Mass. Information packets with all the necessary forms have been sent to all the Presidents and Sports Directors of the Eastern District Groups. Following the competition, a luncheon will be served at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall. An enjoyable competition in the best traditions of Sokol good sportsmanship and fellowship is assured. For additional information, call Roger J. Manyak at (508)476-2668 or the tournament director, John Manyak at (401)626-2866. We hope to have all Eastern District Groups represented at this year's tournament.

Zdar Boh!
John Manyak
Group 3 Sports Director

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. Assembly 34

Our Assembly, under the patronage of St. George, will host its traditional patronal feast day observance on Sunday, April 13 in SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, Second Street and 13th Avenue. Our program begins with attendance at the 9 a.m. Mass to be celebrated for the living and deceased members of our lodge. Following the liturgy, we will enjoy a full breakfast served by the St. Cyril Slovak Men's Club in the Father Dargay Memorial Hall of the parish. We extend a cordial invitation to our Sister Sokolky of Wreath 47 to join us for our celebration. The breakfast is free of charge for members of Assembly 34 and Wreath 47. We hope that many members will make an effort to join us for this annual fraternal event.

This year, Assembly 34 celebrates its 105th anniversary. It was on April 4, 1909 that a group of young Slovaks gathered in SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish to organize a new lodge of the recently established Slovak Catholic Sokol. The founders chose St. George as patron of the new Assembly. Many of the founders hailed from area of Liptov in central Slovakia where the cult of St. George was prominent among athletic groups. Our lodge has enjoyed an active sporting and fraternal life over the course of these many years. We are pleased that the spirit of our founders continues from generation to generation. This past summer, young members of Assembly 34 competed at the 46th International Slet in Slippery Rock, Pa. We have a rich history to be proud of. So come join us for an enjoyable patronal feast day celebration.

With best wishes for a happy and prosperous fraternal year ahead, may I remain

Zdar Boh!
James T. Genosky
Financial Secretary

NEW YORK, N.Y. Assembly 182

We want to extend sincere thanks and gratitude to all who had a hand in the success of our Pre-Lenten celebration held on Saturday, February 15. In spite of rather inclement weather, a good crowd enjoyed themselves in the best traditions of New York Sokol fellowship and fraternalism.

Looking ahead, on Sunday, March 23 we will host our traditional St. Joseph's Day Celebration. Our program begins with Slovak Mass celebrated at 11 a.m. at St. John Nepomucene Church, located at the corner of First Avenue and East 66th Street in Manhattan. Following the liturgy which will be celebrated for our living and deceased members, we will enjoy our traditional fraternal program and luncheon. We extend a special invitation to the members of the former As-

Announcing Our College Scholarship Grants for 2014

by Julie Ann Dobbs
Supreme Vice President

We are pleased to announce that the Slovak Catholic Sokol will make available a total of \$62,000 in scholarship grants to eligible members in 2014. Previous recipients of Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grants may reapply for a 2014 grant; however, per Convention mandate - a student may receive a maximum of two (2) Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship grant awards in each category.

A total of 30 Slovak Catholic Sokol college grants of \$1,000 each, two Theodore and Mary Jane Rich Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,500 each, two Emil Slavik Memorial Scholarships one for a male and female in the amount of \$2,000 each, one The Doctors' Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000, one Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 and two Slovak Catholic Sokol (SCS) Memorial Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000.

With one application you may apply for all college scholarship grants for which you are eligible. Note that only one grant per applicant will be awarded.

College scholarship eligibility requirements:
Slovak Catholic Sokol (a total of 30, \$1,000 grants will be awarded)

- Must have a minimum of \$3,000 permanent Life Insurance Coverage.
- Must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol for at least five years.
- Must have completed one semester of undergraduate studies as a FULL TIME student at an accredited college, university or professional school, or be enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program.
- Must have an accumulated grade point average of at least 2.5 or better.
- One parent must be a Slovak Catholic Sokol member.
- Essay- "How has being a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol influenced my life?"

Theodore and Mary Jane Rich (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,500 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- One parent must be of Slovak Ancestry
- Must be majoring in medical curriculum

Emil Slavik (one male and one female grant in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Both parents must be members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol
- Must be majoring in liberal arts, the sciences, pre-law, pre-medical or business curriculum.

The Doctors' Lesko Medical Memorial Scholarship (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Majoring in Nursing or Medical curriculum.
- One parent must be of Slovak Ancestry.

Krista L. Glugosh Memorial Scholarship (1 grant in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship AND
- Majoring in curriculum with a focus in computer graphics, design or layout

Slovak Catholic Sokol Memorial Scholarship (2 grants in the amount of \$1000 will be awarded to the applicant that best exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism)

- Same requirements as for SCS scholarship
- Essay- "Describe the one volunteer experience that made the biggest personal impact on you- how/why".

The process of applying for any of the above college level scholarships is completely on-line. Applications and instructions are **ONLY** available on our website @ www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

Questions regarding the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Program may be directed to: Julie Dobbs, Supreme Vice-President, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, vp@slovakcatholicssokol.org, (262)498-2571

Deadline for submission of all scholarship applications is March 31, 2014.

In addition to our college grant program, we make available 19 Catholic High School Grants in the amount of \$500 each as well as 38 Catholic Grade School Grants in the amount of \$250 each. Please find these scholarship applications and directives in each of the next issues of the *Falcon*.

Za Boha a Národ  *For God and Nation*
Slovak Catholic Falcon
SLOVENSKÝ KATOLÍCKY SOKOL
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WEB SITE - www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

For students currently attending a Catholic High School

Slovak Catholic Sokol
Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial
High School Grant

As per the decision of the delegates at the 26th National Convention held in New Haven, CT, and amended at the 28th National Convention held in Buffalo, NY, the Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$500.00 grants to one young Sokol or Sokolka in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. These 19 Grants are available to any qualified Sokol member currently attending a Catholic High School.

Eligibility

- A. Applicant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing, holding a permanent Life Insurance Certificate in the amount of not less than \$3,000, and has been a member for at least five year. Application is also available on the Internet @ www.slovakcatholicsokol.org
B. One parent must be a S.C.S. member.
C. The principal of the Catholic High School must verify the enrollment of the applicant.

Application

ALONG WITH THE APPLICATION you must submit a typed or written essay DOUBLE SPACED in 100 to 200 words on the following topic:

"WHAT DOES THE SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL MEAN TO ME?" This essay must be submitted along with the application.

This application must be received on or before, March 31, 2014 with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph.

Disqualification

An applicant who neglects to submit or complete any part of these requirements before the established deadline will automatically be disqualified.

Acknowledgment

An acknowledgment of the Grant should be made in writing by the recipient as soon as possible, if you are awarded a Grant.

Return of Grant

If for any reason the Grant is not used by the recipient, the entire (or portion of) grant not utilized must be returned.

(Detach here)

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL ABBOT JEROME M. KOVAL, O.S.B. MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ High School Phone (_____) _____
area code area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? _____ If yes, please indicate Grade School or High School. What year? _____ (yes/no)

High School verification (to be completed by High School Principal)

I, _____ Principal of _____
(Principal's signature) (Name of School)

Catholic High School, verify that _____ is a student at
(Name of student)
the above school and will be attending _____ Grade in the 2014-2015 school year.

Are you currently participating in Slovak Catholic Sokol Activities? Yes _____ No _____

Deadline for receipt of this application is March 31, 2014.
Return completed application to:

Slovak Catholic Sokol High School Grant
205 Madison St., P.O. Box 899, Passaic, NJ 07055

Held in Franklin, Wis.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Group 4, "Bishop Stefan Moyzes"

The Annual Meeting of Group 4, Chicago Illinois, under the patronage of Bishop Stefan Moyzes, took place on September 14, 2013 at the Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare Franklin Campus in Franklin, Wisconsin.

President Tony L. Scuglik called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. He then led the opening prayer which was dedicated to all living and deceased Group 4 members and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. The recent passing of Paul Scuglik, long time auditor, officer, member and brother of Group 4 President was acknowledged. Brother Tony expressed appreciation on behalf of their family for the support and prayers.

President Scuglik welcomed all group officers and delegates to the annual meeting. He acknowledged the presence of Group 4 Supreme Officers Sister Jennifer Romine, Member of the Physical Fitness Board, Julie Ann Dobbs, Supreme Vice President and Stephen Burican, Supreme Auditor.

Group 4 Recording Secretary, Sister Julie Ann Dobbs took roll call of the officers and delegates. A total of 11 officers and 13 delegates were present. Represented at this meeting were Assemblies 11, 113 and Wreath 93.

President Scuglik would like to thank Sister Hoeck for making the arrangements for our Group meeting, including location and food. Additional thanks to Sister Hoeck for managing the travel and food concerns for our Group Slet participants.

Correspondence:

Assembly 11 donation of \$2000 to the Group 4 Slet fund. Acknowledged and thank you!

Assembly 11- communication regarding current assembly leadership through 2013.

Regarding Assembly 11, future communication should be sent to Sister Teresa Buc. President Scuglik to work with the Home Office in regard to our concern for the future of this assembly. While working through the reorganization of Assembly 11, Sister Teresa discovered that assembly records need to be kept for seven years after which they can then be disposed. Additionally, forms and paperwork are easily retrieved from the SCS website, therefore we do not need to keep additional forms in hard copy.

Copies of the 2012 Group 4 annual meeting minutes held on September 22, 2012 were distributed to officers and delegates for their review. The minutes were published in the SCS Falcon. Following a short discussion, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Brother Bill Gemoll, seconded by Brother Steve Burican. Motion carried.

Discussion about cost savings from the offering of the electronic version of the paper- currently down to printing and mailing of 2500 with a cost savings of \$35,000 annually.

Brother Scuglik offered our Group 4 thanks to the scholarship

committee for selecting several qualified and deserving Group 4 members to receive 2013 Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarships. Group 4 members received 6 college, 2 high school and 3 grade school scholarships. The scholarship program begins November 1st of each year and the application due date is March 31st. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Look for more information in the SCS Falcon as well as the www.slovakcatholicokol.org website.

A copy of the financial report was handed out to all for review. Following the passing of Brother Paul Scuglik, Brother Tony asked our auditors Fred Olszowka and Teresa Buc to conduct an internal audit. Sister Teresa Buc reviewed the report for our members. Sister Teresa indicated that she established the report to represent a fiscal year such that comparisons could be more easily made. The Slet fund was closed and transferred to the master account in order to save on administrative cost. Assessments continue to go down quarterly. We anticipate a rebate from the home office for their portion of the Slet transportation cost. Sister Patricia Osterbrink made a motion to accept the financial and auditor's reports and Sister Paula Jean Swoboda seconded. Motion carried.

A discussion was held about low meeting attendance. It was noted that Wreath 81 struggles with transportation to meetings in Wisconsin and that they had extended an invitation to host our next Group 4 meeting to Whiting, IN. Sister Dobbs suggested use of a conference call/ bridge and phone.

Sister Lisa Hoeck presented the Group 4 Physical Fitness Board Report:

In December of 2012 we held our annual youth Christmas party in the community room in Pewaukee. In January of 2013, we held a weekend "retreat" at Joann Mann Lodge in Potawatomie Hills Girls Scout camp for all Group 4 drillers. A copy of the drill DVD was sent to the drillers to prepare for the beginning of drill classes. During the months of April through July we had regular drill practices every other Sunday at the Rite Hite YMCA and gymnastic classes at the YMCA private gymnastic club. On June 5, 2013 we held our Track and Field Slet Qualification Meet at Brookfield Central High School. On July 14, 2013 our drillers performed at the Annual Slovak Day Picnic in Franklin, WI. During the week of July 15-20, 2013 23 Group 4 members attended the International Slet in Slippery Rock, PA. We are extremely proud of our group drillers, we not only performed but behaved well, each coming home with either a medal or ribbon. In terms of drill team performance, the junior boys took 4th place, the junior girls placed 5th and the senior women took 1st place. Five senior women placed in the individual drill finals with both Lexi and Cassi Stecker-

(Continued on page 7)

“Holding Hope High—Moving Forward with God”

On January 31, the Saint Cyril Spiritual Center in Danville offered a retreat designed for those who currently experience unemployment because of downsizing, budget cuts, layoffs and other reasons.

The afternoon retreat had the theme of a “Hope-filled Journey” side-by-side with God in the midst of worries, job searches, and concerns. There were spiritual presentations by Sister Barbara Sable who linked scripture with job resumes and interviews, and by Sister Jean Marie who shared a personal story of hope in God amidst the trials of job loss.

The afternoon was co-sponsored by “Career Link” and “Central Susquehanna Opportunities, Inc.” Staff members from these agencies provided information and material regarding job search and career assistance, and presented schedules for various classes. They answered questions and offered one-to-one consultation with participants. The day also provided time for silent prayer, reflection, and supportive sharing.



Sister Jean Marie Holup, SS.C.M., Director of Saint Cyril Spiritual Center in Danville, Pa.

The participants remarked that the day gave them both hope, and valuable information.

Saint Cyril Spiritual Center offers retreats and reflection days on a variety of topics. For information on future retreats contact Sister Jean Marie at 570-275-0910.

Group 1 Spaghetti Dinner in Clifton, N.J. on March 9

Continuing in a long-standing tradition of promoting fellowship and Sokol fraternalism, Group 1, “Msgr. Stephen Krasula” will host its 17th annual Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, March 9 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall, located at 218 Ackerman Avenue in Clifton, N.J. Festivities begin at 4 p.m. Cost of the dinner is \$7.00 for adults, \$6.00 for seniors and \$4.00 for children ages 6 to 12. Children under age 6 are welcome free of charge. For tickets call Peter Walentowicz

at tel.(973)432-8841.

The annual benefit serves as an opportunity for Sokol members and their friends from various lodges to meet, greet and socialize. We especially look forward to seeing many young people at this year’s dinner where we will discuss the various upcoming sporting events sponsored by our organization. An enjoyable afternoon is assured.

Zdar Boh!
Eric Topczj
Chairperson

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Group 4, “Bishop Stefan Moyzes”

(Continued from page 6)

Janssen taking first place for their divisions. In addition Noah Romine made it to the boys’ individual finals. Volleyball was a new addition to this year’s Slet and our team took second after a very competitive evening. Overall, Group 4 finished 5th place for the flag points. We had a large number of parents and friends there to cheer for our group and we want to thank everyone for their support. There is a post Slet/Halloween party being planned as well as a Christmas party. Community service opportunities will be planned and communicated. New to the children of our Slovak Catholic Sokol ages 7-16yo is a Youth Camp opportunity to be held at Camp Fitch. This is a YMCA Camp and the selected week August 14-17, 2014 will be in combination with the International Clinic. The cost is \$240 per camper with the SCS covering half. Transportation will be provided by camper family or Group/Wreath. We are going to explore travel options and fundraisers.

Brother Scuglik expressed his pleasure with the Slet participants and their performance as well as the way they represented our Group.

Sister Jennifer Romine made a motion to accept the Physical Fitness Board report as presented. Sister Suzanne Zeman seconded. Motion passed.

A short recess was taken for lunch

at 12:00. The meeting was called back to order by Brother Scuglik at 1:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS—there was no old business to discuss

NEW BUSINESS—A discussion was held regarding the 2014 Annual Group 4 Meeting, both location and date. Noted was an invitation to host our meeting in Whiting, IN. Brother Tony asked that if you have suggestions or interest regarding the location/date you should let Tony know by January. Sister Romine suggested that she would be willing to organize a meeting again at the Franklin location. If we were to host at Franklin, Sister Dobbs would explore a conference call line. Tentative date is September 13, 2014.

Sister Romine extended sympathy and regards from the Physical Fitness Board and Sister Dobbs from the Board of Directors to the Scuglik family on the loss of Paul Scuglik.

Brother Tony Scuglik then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sister Helene Evica made a motion to adjourn and Sister Gloria Scuglik seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm with a closing prayer.

Fraternally yours,
Zdar Boh!
Julie Ann Dobbs
Group 4 Recording Secretary

9th annual Group 1 Children’s Bowlingfest set for Sunday, March 2

Group 1, “Msgr. Stephen Krasula” of Passaic, N.J. will host its 9th annual Children’s Youth Bowlingfest for youngsters ages 6 and older on Sunday, March 2 at the Garden Palace Bowling Lanes located at 42 Lakeview Avenue in Clifton, N.J. Festivities begin at 2 p.m. and will continue until 4 p.m. The youngsters will have the opportunity to bowl and enjoy each other’s company in the best traditions of Sokol camaraderie and good sportsmanship.

After bowling, pizza, soda and refreshments will be enjoyed. An enjoyable afternoon is assured. We invite youngsters from all our Group 1 Assemblies and Wreaths to join us for this fun event. Bowling and refreshments are free of charge. Parents and grandparents are welcome to join us with the youngsters at this annual fraternal event.

However, in order to make the necessary preparations, parents are asked to call Eric Topczj at tel. (973)985-0134 indicating the number of children who will participate. We look forward to seeing a great turnout at this year’s Sokol Children’s Bowlingfest.

Zdar Boh!
Eric Topczj
Group 1 Sports Director



2014 Marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Joseph Murgas

(Continued from page 1)

He was buried at Sacred Heart Cemetery in nearby Dallas, Pa.

Greatness recognized

During the first Slovak Republic, 1939-1945, a special commemorative postage stamp was issued in honor of its famous son. In 1942, the U.S. Navy christened a battleship as “The Joseph Murgas”. During the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976, the Father Joseph Murgas Communications Room was dedicated at the University of Scranton. The Murgas Audio-Visual Center at King’s College was dedicated in 1978 and in 1979, a replica of the twin towers he erected was dedicated in Wilkes-Barre. In 1990, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission dedicated a state historical marker in his honor there. Several exhibits on the life and times of Father Murgas have been organized

by the Slovak Heritage Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

In 2007, under the leadership of Monsignor Francis J. Beeda, who had been a successor of Father Murgas at Sacred Heart Parish, a plaque was dedicated on the facade of the main post office in Bratislava, Slovakia.

On May 16, a special scholarly symposium will be held in Slovakia in observance of Father Murgas’ sesquicentennial. It will take place in the museum dedicated to his memory in the village of his birth, Tajov.

It is therefore important for us to recognize the greatness of Father Murgas on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his birth. He was a priest, scientist, artist, botanist - a true renaissance man. We reverence his memory as a patriotic, adopted American and proud son of the Slovak nation.

Slovak celebration on March 9 in New York City

Assembly 1 of the Slovak League of America will host its traditional Slovak Independence Day celebration on Sunday, March 9 in St. John Nepomucene Parish, 411 East 66th Street in New York City. This year’s celebration honors the 75th anniversary of the declaration of independence of the Slovak parliament in Bratislava on March 14, 1939.

The celebration begins with Mass celebrated at 11 a.m. in the church. The civic and cultural program will commence at 1 p.m. in the parish social hall. An interesting program has been planned. A luncheon of traditional Slovak culinary specialties along with an open bar will be

featured. The annual celebration is hosted by Assembly 1 along with Assembly 182 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Branch 45 and Branch 716 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

The celebration recalls the historic fact of Slovakia declaration of its first republic in 1939. The fact of the first Republic laid the foundations for the current Independent Slovak Republic of January 1, 1993. Area Sokols and Sokolky are invited to attend an enjoyable afternoon celebrating Slovak culture and pride. There is free admission and is open to the public. For additional information call Milan R. Dait (201)641-8922 or Jozef Bilik (718)463-2084.

Slovak Catholic Sokol Camp Adventure

August 14-17, 2014

It is not too late to register for our first annual youth camp! If you are interested in being a part of this exciting new event, go to www.slovakcatholicssokol.org and fill out a registration form. All other information can be found on the website.

The payment schedule is as follows:

Initial deposit: \$60.00 due no later than April 1, 2014 to reserve your spot. (payments can be sent at any time as long as they are received by the above date).

Remainder of balance: \$60.00 due by July 1, 2014.

Deposits are non-refundable.

Please mail a check or money order to: Slovak Catholic Sokol
Attention: Kathy Watkins
7019 Highland Creek Drive
Bridgeville, PA 15017

If you have already registered, please send the form below with your deposit. If did not pre-register, you must complete the form on the website.

Name: _____

Deposit amount: _____ Check or money order number: _____

Which activities would you most like to participate in while at the camp? Check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> swimming	<input type="checkbox"/> rock climbing	<input type="checkbox"/> paintball
<input type="checkbox"/> arts and crafts	<input type="checkbox"/> mountain boarding	<input type="checkbox"/> golf
<input type="checkbox"/> kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/> archery	<input type="checkbox"/> fishing
<input type="checkbox"/> nature walks	<input type="checkbox"/> soccer	<input type="checkbox"/> volleyball
<input type="checkbox"/> basketball	<input type="checkbox"/> batting cages	<input type="checkbox"/> campfires

For students entering a Catholic Grade School (Grades 2-8)

Slovak Catholic Sokol Catholic Grade School Grants

As per the decision of the delegates at the 28th National Convention held in Buffalo, NY, a fraternal benefit is being offered to our young members attending a Catholic Grade School. The Slovak Catholic Sokol is pleased to offer \$250.00 Grants to our young Sokols and Sokolky in each of our organization's nineteen Groups. Two grants per each Group are available to any qualified Sokol member entering a Catholic Grade School (Grades 2 through 8).



Eligibility

- A. Applicant must be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in good standing, holding a permanent Life Insurance Certificate in the amount of not less than \$3,000, and has been a member for at least five years.
- B. One parent must be a S.C.S. member.
- C. The principal of the Catholic Grade School must verify the enrollment of the applicant.

Application

This application must be received on or before, March 31, 2014 with a clear, small (2"x3" wallet size) head and shoulders photograph. Application is also available on the Internet @

www.slovakcatholicssokol.org

Disqualification

An applicant who neglects to submit or complete any part of these requirements before the established deadline will automatically be disqualified.

Acknowledgment

An acknowledgment of the Grant should be made in writing by the recipient as soon as possible, if you are awarded a Grant.

Return of Grant

If for any reason the Grant is not used by the recipient, the entire (or portion of) grant not utilized must be returned.

Sokol Birthdays

FEBRUARY 27

John Fialkovich, Yonkers, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

MARCH 1

Margaret Kalis, Greensboro, Pa., a member of Assembly 116, Greensboro, Pa.

Joseph J. Sovcik, Jr., Santa Fe, N.M., a member of Assembly 257, Chicago, Ill.

MARCH 2

Zachary A. Banaszek, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Christine Hill, Watertown, Conn., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Anna Jurbala, Henderson, Nev., a member of Wreath 81, Whiting, Ind.

Joseph M. Oros, Reading, Pa., financial secretary of Assembly 261, Reading, Pa.

Nancy A. Ramirez, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

MARCH 3

Gloria Carpency, Tamaqua, Pa., a member of Assembly 188, Lansford, Pa.

Paul J. Hackash, New Ringgold, Pa., President of Group 18.

Angela P. Kurnath Hoffer, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., a member of Assembly 162 in Clifton, N.J.

Jillian M. Krasauskis, Plainfield, Ill., a member of Assembly 11 Chicago, Ill.

Ladislav Koloz, New Foundland, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Jeffrey Mangan, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

MARCH 5

Cheryl L. Chuba, Dauphin, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Elizabeth A. Hennis, Bridgeview, Ill., a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.

MARCH 6

Paula Ferrato, Barrington, R.I., a member of Wreath 15 in Periyopolis, Pa.

Ted Grzybowski, Clifton, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

MARCH 7

Michele Banaszek, Scranton, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Kayla L. Troxil, Canfield, Oh., a

member of Wreath 54, Youngstown, Oh.

MARCH 8

Lynn M. Flore, West Mifflin, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

MARCH 9

Felix S. Gula, Livingston Manor, N.Y., a member of Assembly 182, New York City.

Cassandra Johnson, Point Pleasant, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Tessie A. Oros, Reading, Pa., a member of Wreath 155 in Reading, Pa.

Frank J. Pavlica, Clifton, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

MARCH 10

Michael J. Kostolansky, Donora, Pa., a member of Assembly 25, Periyopolis, Pa.

MARCH 11

Phyllis J. Flynn, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

MARCH 12

Livia Polanski, Morris Plains, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

MARCH 13

Lorraine Fanzo, Bethel Park, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Anna Gaydosh, Amherst, Oh., a member of Wreath 111, Lorain, Oh.

Allison Iancale, Hamden, Conn., a member of Wreath 1, Bridgeport, Conn.

Patricia Iancale, Holland, Mass., a member of Wreath 1, Bridgeport, Conn.

Jennifer M. Salt, Belford, N.J., a member of Wreath 147, Larksville, Pa.

John P. J. Lazor, Minneapolis, Minn., a member of Assembly 34, Minneapolis, Minn.

Helen Wangerien, Oldsmar, Fla., a member of Wreath 111, Lorain, Oh.

MARCH 14

Steven Bucko, Oakdale, Minn., a member of Assembly 34, Minneapolis, Minn.

Stephanie Eckenrode, Lillz, Pa., a member of Assembly 79 in Lilly, Pa.

Susan Noblitt, San Diego, Ca., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

Kristin Quigley, Dallas, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

MARCH 15

Carol Bombich, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Ethnic Heritage Dinner at Pittston, Pa. parish

St. John the Evangelist Parish in Pittston, Pa. will again host its very popular Ethnic Heritage Dinner on Sunday, March 9. The dinner will be served in the Seton Cafeteria located on Church Street beginning at 1:30 p.m. A variety of ethnic culinary specialties, including Slovak, will be featured and a delicious time is assured. Admission is free for those who bring along a covered dish. In addition, as part of the parish's outreach project to those in need, a collection of non-perishable food items or monetary donations will be accepted from those who will not be

providing an ethnic delicacy. These donations will be given to an area food pantry.

In order to make the necessary preparations, those planning to attend should call the Parish Office, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., tel. (570)654-0053 indicating the type of ethnic dish which will be provided. The pastor and well known Sokol, Monsignor John J. Bendik along with the associate, Rev. Peter Tomczak, hope to see many Group 7 Sokols and Sokolky at this enjoyable afternoon. Zdar Boh!

Stephen Vitek

(Detach here)

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL CATHOLIC GRADE SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATION

Group # _____ Assembly/Wreath # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date of Birth _____ Current Age _____

Home Phone (____) _____ School Phone (____) _____
area code area code

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Father's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Mother's name _____ Are you a member? _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Parent's S.C.S. Insurance Certificate # _____ Face Amount _____

Are you a previous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Recipient? _____
(yes/no)

If yes, what Year? _____

School verification (to be completed by Grade School Principal)

I, _____ Principal of _____
(Principal's signature) (Name of School)

Catholic Grade School, verify that _____ is a student at
(Name of student)

the above school and will be entering _____ Grade in the 2014-2015 school year.

Are you currently participating in Slovak Catholic Sokol Activities? Yes _____ No _____

Deadline for receipt of this application is March 31, 2014.
 Return completed application to:

Slovak Catholic Sokol
 Grade School Grant
 205 Madison St., P.O. Box 899
 Passaic, NJ 07055

*Catholic gentleman, active fraternalist***James G. Holodak honored on the occasion of his 80th birthday in Yonkers, N.Y.**

A well-known and respected member of the Slovak American community in Yonkers, N.Y., James G. Holodak was honored at a surprise dinner on Saturday, February 8 on the occasion of his 80th birthday. More than 100 family and friends of Brother Holodak, who is a long-time member of Assembly 219 of the Slovak

Catholic Sokol, turned out for the celebration held in the social hall of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Yonkers.

A native of Yonkers, Brother Holodak was born there February 3, 1934, son of the late John Holodak and the former Mary Hopko. He was the youngest of eight siblings. He was raised in Most Holy Trinity Parish and

was graduated from its former parochial school, where his teachers were the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius. He was a 1952 graduate of Gorton High School. He served in the United States Navy from 1952 to 1956. In April 1955, Brother Jim and the former Veronica Jankowski were united and pronounced their marriage vows in



Brother Holodak, second from the left, has been a life-long civic activist in Yonkers, N.Y. His son, Charles J. Holodak is shown above presenting him with the proclamation of Yonkers Mayor Michael Spano who proclaimed Saturday, February 8 as "James G. Holodak Day" in the city, which has been traditionally known as "The city of gracious living." Proclamations were also received from the Chairman of the Yonkers City Council and the County of Westchester. Looking on during the presentation are the Rev. George Oonnoony, pastor of Most Holy Trinity Parish and the Rev. Anthony J. Pleho, associate pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in the Bronx and a former pastor of Most Holy Trinity.



Brother Holodak is shown above with the 80th anniversary cake enjoyed at the festivities. With him on his right is his wife, Dawn joined by his children. The Holodaks are a 100% Sokol family.



Brother Holodak is shown above with his 13 grandchildren who joined him at the festivities at Most Holy Trinity Parish Hall in Yonkers, N.Y.



Our honoree, James G. Holodak, seated center, is shown with his children who traveled from various parts of the country to be present at his 80th birthday celebration. Shown with him seated are, l-r, Anne Marie McDermott, Carolyn A. Holodak, Theresa Hanrahan and Mary Ruth Romagnoli. Standing are, l-r, Charles J. Holodak, James Holodak, Jr. and Edward F. Holodak.

the Church of St. Casimir. The marriage was blessed with seven children, Anne Marie (Larry) McDermott, Carolyn A., James, Jr., Edward F., Charles J., Theresa (Mark) Hanrahan and Mary Ruth (Paul) Romagnoli; and 13 grandchildren. Jim and Veronica were active members of Most Holy Trinity Parish until her untimely passing in 1993.

In 2001, James married the former Dawn Maron at Most Holy Trinity Church.

Brother Holodak has been active in Most Holy Trinity Parish all his life. His maternal grandparents were among the founders of the parish which this year celebrates its 120th anniversary of incorporation. There has been a member of the Holodak-Hopko family in the parish school from its founding in 1911 until its final graduation in 1986, when Brother Jim's daughter Mary Ruth was a member of the school's final graduating class. Brother Jim presently is a trustee of Most Holy Trinity parish and currently serves as a member of the four-member core team of the parish on the Making All Things New project, a pastoral planning initiative of the Archdiocese of New York.

For many years, Brother Jim has been an active fraternalist. He has represented Assembly 219 at the annual meetings of Group 1 as well as at Sokol national conventions. He is also a member of the Holy Trinity Society, Branch 41 of the First Catholic Slovak Union which founded Most Holy Trinity Parish. He also supports the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation and its annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal. Jim has also been active for many years in the Knights of Columbus, LaRabida Council #166 in Yonkers where he has served

in numerous capacities including that of Grand Knight for many years. He has also served in leadership positions within the Knights of Columbus on both the county and State of New York levels. In addition, Jim has been a civic activist. He served on a number of municipal boards including that of chairman of the Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority.

Brother Holodak is a cousin of the late Blessed Bishop Basil Hopko who served as a Greek Catholic Bishop in Slovakia. Bishop Hopko served for many years as the Auxiliary Bishop of the Greek Catholic Eparchy of Presov. He was impassioned for many years during the Communist regime in the then, Czechoslovakia. He died in 1972. Blessed Pope John Paul II beatified Bishop Hopko during his visit to Slovakia in 2001. Jim and members of the Holodak family have visited the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Presov, Slovakia where the shrine and remains of Blessed Bishop Basil Hopko are located. During his 2010 visit to Presov, Jim's son, Charles Holodak obtained a first-class relic of Blessed Bishop Basil Hopko which is currently enshrined in the Holodak home.

Always proud of his Slovak heritage and Catholic faith, he has been a credit to the Yonkers Slovak community. Brother Holodak's many friends and admirers and fellow fraternalists extend prayerful best wishes as he celebrates this important milestone in his very fruitful life. May you continue to be a wonderful witness of our Cyrillo-Methodian heritage of faith, as a patriotic American and proud son of the Slovak nation. May God continue to bless you with good health and happiness in the years ahead. Zdar Boh!

Scenes of the Annual Children's Christmas Party Hosted by Assembly 162
SS. Cyril and Methodius Church Hall + Clifton, New Jersey + December 15





What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland



News and Views from Slovakia...

Burian meet Sedgwick, debate Iran recall anniversary of joining NATO

Slovak Foreign and European State Secretary Peter Burian met with United States Ambassador to Slovakia, Theodore Sedgwick on February 6 to discuss current bilateral and multilateral issues, including support for involvement of the International Atomic Energy Agency to deal with the Iranian nuclear issue, the ministry's press department told TASR on the same day.

Burian confirmed Slovakia's support for carrying out the Joint Plan of Action on Iran adopted in Geneva in November 2013.

Burian and Sedgwick further discussed preparations of events to mark the upcoming 10th anniversary of Slovakia joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), cooperation between Slovakia and the National Guard of the state of Indiana, and the annual GLOBSEC 2014 security conference set to take place in Bratislava in mid-May. Peter Burian is the former Ambassador of Slovakia to the United States.

Fico announces presidential bid, aims to be patriotic head of state

Prime Minister and Smer-SD party chief Robert Fico officially announced his bid for president in late December.

At the same time as the premier made the announcement, he publicly presented his evaluation of the government's achievements over the past year in the historic building of Parliament in downtown Bratislava.

"The decision of myself and of the Smer-SD party was preceded by considerations that the sitting government is enjoying one of the strongest political mandates in the European Union," said the premier and thanked Smer's 36-strong presidium for its support.

He added that he's aiming to use his long political experience and good ties with the other two constitutional officials - President Ivan Gasparovic and Parliamentary Chairman Pavol Paska.

"What would vital cooperation between President, Parliamentary Chairman and Prime Minister look like when one of the candidates calls Smer-SD's a party of extremists?" said Fico.

(The actor-turned politician Milan Knazko has said in an interview for the SME daily that most Smer officials are Communists who have nothing in common with social democracy. He noted that Communism is a form of extremism. - ed. note)

Fico also noted that the other presidential bidders want to act as a kind of counterpoise to the government - in other words, to fight against it. According to the premier, however, such an approach would only complicate Slovakia's standing in international terms, including the Visegrad Four grouping (which besides Slovakia features the Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary.)

It would be wrong if the elected president was only a political parvenu (one who acquires power quickly) who is there to gather experience. "He (the president) has to offer predictability in terms of their decisions...has to provide guarantees for our commitments towards European and transatlantic structures," he added.

"I want to be a patriotic president. I'm one of two active politicians who voted for the Declaration of Independence of Slovakia and the Slovak Constitution in 1992," he said, referring to the Declaration of Sovereignty approved in the Slovak Parliament on July 17, 1992, with the break-up of then Czechoslovakia to become a reality as of January 1, 1993. The parliament was chaired by incumbent President Ivan Gasparovic at the time.

Having said that, Fico also expressed his readiness to be the president not only of all Slovaks but of ethnic mi-

norities as well.

The first round of the presidential election in Slovakia will take place on March 15 with the second round taking place on March 29, Parliamentary Chairman Pavol Paska announced recently. The presidential vote will be carried out via plebiscite in two rounds. In the first round, if a candidate receives an absolute majority of valid votes then no second round is necessary. More likely, the two top candidates will meet head-to-head in the second round for the right to serve the five year term - with the possibility of being reelected once. All citizens age 18 and older are eligible to vote in the presidential election.

Audit finds shortcomings in Kosice European Capital of Culture

An audit carried out by the Office of the Kosice City Main Auditor has found serious shortcomings in the way that the Kosice-European Capital of Culture 2013 independent organization has been run over the past year, TASR learned in late December.

According to the audit's findings, services in some cases were purchased without tenders even though public procurement processes were required under the law due to the sums involved. Furthermore, many invoices didn't provide information on the extent of the services rendered.

The organization's director Jan Sudzina rejected the audit report and refused to sign it. Sudzina concedes only formal shortcomings that he claims have already been remedied. He maintains that the law wasn't violated in the sphere of public procurements.

Main Kosice City Auditor Hana Jakubikova has submitted her report on the audit results to the Kosice City Council. "Someone isn't telling the truth here, either one side or the other," said the mayor of Kosice Richard Rasi (Smer-SD).

Aselborn: Slovakia can't develop in isolation, but as part of the EU

As a small country, Slovakia can't evolve in isolation, but as part of the European Union, the Foreign Minister of Luxembourg Jean Aselborn, stated after meeting his Slovak counterpart Miroslav Lajcak in Bratislava on February 3, appealing to all Slovaks to cast their votes in the upcoming election to the European Parliament.

As revealed by Lajcak at a briefing following the meeting, both diplomats agreed on "further, yet meaningful integration," within the EU.

Also discussed during their meeting was the upcoming presidencies of Luxembourg and Slovakia of the Council of the European Union - in July to December 2015 and July to December 2016, respectively. Lajcak revealed in this respect that Slovakia would be most grateful to take up the offer extended by Luxembourg. We've agreed that one or two Slovak diplomats can become a part of the Luxembourgian team during the Luxembourgian presidency in the second half of 2015," said Lajcak.

In addition, the talks of the two diplomats revolved around the activities of the two countries within the UN Security Council and their efforts to eliminate the abuse of children caught up in conflicts and wars. The politicians also discussed the topic of the current developments in the Balkans.

Lajcak: OSCE should serve as mediator in Ukraine

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) could serve as a mediator between the Ukrainian Government and the Opposition, Foreign and European Af-

(Continued from page 18)

Selected stories are provided by TASR-Slovakia, the Slovak Republic's official News Agency.



The High Tatras, Europe's second highest mountain range, form the natural border between Poland and Slovakia. About two-thirds of the range lie in Slovakia with about one third located geographically in Poland. Slovakia and Poland in a joint effort have applied to host the 2022 Olympic Winter Games. The area provides excellent venues for the winter games. The most popular and most famous peak of the High Tatras is the Lomnický Peak. The triangular top of the peak is connected to three ridges. The northwestern ridge joins the main ridge of the High Tatras passing Pysny and Baranie Saddle. In the northeast direction, it is followed by a crotch passing the Kezmarňsky and Maly Kezmarňsky Peak. The third ridge - Lomnický Ridge, passes Lomnické Saddle in the south, south-east of the Lomnický Peak. The first tourist ascent was completed by the English traveler, Robert Townson in 1793. The peak has been accessible by a cable car from Tatranska Lomnica since 1940. It is the most visited peak of the High Tatras. The cable car station on the top of the peak is connected to the highest Astronomical and Meteorological Observatory in Slovakia. At the summit, a TV transmission station was built in 1957 and an electric power line was brought in 1965.

Donations to the 2014 SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal may be sent at any time during the year

Donations made to the 35th Annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal of the Slovak Catholic Federation in 2013 Supporting the Ministry of the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome and religious communities of men and women in Slovakia

DIocese of ALLENTOWN, PA

St. Andrew's Church, North Catasauqua	\$ 207.00
SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, Reading	371.00
Church of St. John the Baptist, Allentown.....	667.00
St. Nicholas Church, Walnutport.....	542.00
St. Stephen Church, Shenandoah	107.00
	\$ 1,894.00

DIocese of ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN, PA

Queen of Archangels, Clarence	\$ 329.00
Our Lady of the Alleghenies, Lilly.....	720.00
St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Mount Union.....	481.00
SS. Cyril & Methodius, Windber	299.00
	\$ 1,829.00

DIocese of CLEVELAND, OH

Assumption Church, Broadview Heights	\$ 800.00
St. Edward Church, Parkman	203.00
St. Lucy Church, Middlefield.....	143.00
Transfiguration Parish, Lakewood.....	651.00
	\$ 1,797.00

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT

SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, Sterling Heights	\$ 500.00
	\$ 500.00

DIocese of GARY, IN

St. John the Baptist Church, Whiting	\$ 120.00
	\$ 120.00

ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK, NY

St. Mary's Church, Haverstraw	\$ 35.00
Most Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers (2012).....	1,310.00
Most Holy Trinity Church, Yonkers (2013).....	1,025.00
	\$ 2,370.00

DIocese of PATERSON, NJ

St. Mary's Assumption Church, Passaic	\$ 500.00
Sacred Heart Church, Rockaway.....	390.35
SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, Clifton.....	956.00
	\$ 1,846.35

DIocese of PITTSBURGH, PA

Holy Family Church, Creighton	\$ 134.00
Holy Trinity Church, West Mifflin	400.00
	\$ 534.00

DIocese of SCRANTON, PA

Diocese of Scranton.....	\$ 10,924.56
Church of the Epiphany, Sayre.....	1,610.00
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilkes Barre.....	100.00
SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Hazleton	687.00
	\$ 13,321.56

DIocese of STEUBENVILLE, OH

Corpus Christi Church, Caldwell	\$ 75.00
	\$ 75.00

DIocese of YOUNGSTOWN, OH

Christ Our Savior Church, Struthers	\$ 679.00
Christ the Good Shepherd, Campbell.....	200.00
Holy Name of Jesus, Youngstown.....	319.00
Our Lady of Sorrows, Youngstown	94.50
St. Matthias Church, Youngstown	419.00
	\$ 1,711.50

OUTSIDE THE U.S.

ARCHDIOCESE OF TORONTO, ONTARIO

SS. Cyril and Methodius, Mississauga, Ontario (US dollars)	\$ 950.00
	\$ 950.00

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Benedictine Order of Cleveland, Cleveland, OH.....	\$ 100.00
School Sisters of St. Francis, Pittsburgh, PA.....	200.00
Sisters of St. Basil the Great, Uniontown, PA.....	15.00
	\$ 315.00

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FRATERNALS

SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL

SCS – Assembly 59, Wilkes Barre, PA.....	\$ 100.00
SCS – Assembly 136, Nanticoke, PA.....	25.00
SCS – Assembly 182, New York City.....	100.00
SCS – Assembly 219, Yonkers, NY	50.00
SCS – Wreath 11, Johnstown, NY.....	100.00
SCS – Wreath 14, Johnstown, PA.....	50.00
SCS – Wreath 86, Torrington, CT.....	50.00
SCS – Group 1, "Msgr. Stephen Krasula," Passaic, NJ.....	100.00
SCS – Group 6, "Msgr. Andrew Hlinka," Perryopolis, PA.....	100.00
SCS – Group 7, "Rev. Joseph Murgas," Wilkes Barre, PA.....	50.00
SCS – Group 9, "SS. Cyril & Methodius," Johnstown, PA.....	100.00

SCS – Group 14, "St. Francis of Assisi," Pittsburgh, PA.....	100.00
SCS – Group 16, "Rev. Ferdis Juriga," Detroit, MI.....	25.00
SCS – Group Presidents Meeting.....	300.00
SCS – Passaic, NJ.....	300.00
	\$ 1,550.00

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK LADIES ASSOCIATION

FCSLA – Branch 2, Yonkers, NY	\$ 100.00
FCSLA – Branch 26, Olyphant, PA.....	50.00
FCSLA – Branch 108, Olyphant, PA.....	100.00
FCSLA – Branch 408, Cleveland, OH	500.00
FCSLA – Branch 475, Bedford, OH.....	100.00
FCSLA Beachwood, OH	250.00
	\$ 1,100.00

FIRST CATHOLIC SLOVAK UNION

FCSU – Branch 19, Bridgeport, CT.....	\$ 150.00
FCSU – Branch 381 KJ, Jersey City, NJ	500.00
FCSU – Branch 382 K, Scranton, PA	200.00
FCSU – Branch 493, Chicago, IL.....	25.00
	\$ 875.00

LADIES PENNSYLVANIA SLOVAK CATHOLIC UNION

LPSCU – Br. 90, Laurel Run, PA.....	\$ 25.00
LPSCU – Br. 213, Laurel Run, PA.....	25.00
LPSCU – Rev. Dianiska District, Wilkes Barre, PA	25.00
LPSCU, Wilkes Barre, PA	600.00
	\$ 675.00

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION CHAPTERS

SCF – Cardinal Tomko Chapter, Bethlehem, PA	\$ 100.00
	\$ 100.00

SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION 58TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

58th National Convention Collection, Wilkes Barre, PA.....	\$ 225.00
	\$ 225.00

HERITAGE FESTIVAL

36th New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival	\$ 50.00
	\$ 50.00

SLOVAK DAY ASSOCIATION

Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association	\$ 250.00
	\$ 250.00

INDIVIDUAL

Dr. John Adan, Victorville, CA.....	\$ 100.00
Anne Altavilla, Plains, PA.....	25.00
Rev. Philip A. Altavilla, Scranton, PA.....	150.00
Anonymous, Scranton, PA.....	150.00
Anonymous made in loving memory of Martin, Zofia, Paul and Adam	100.00
Rev. Lawrence Bacik, Galesburg, MI.....	25.00
Rev. Richard D. Baker, New York, NY.....	200.00
Anna Balash, Bridgeport, CT	50.00
Bernard & Mary Jane Barilla, Hazleton, PA.....	25.00
Paul Berish, Kingston, NY.....	100.00
Thomas and Mary Veronica Blose, Erie, PA	25.00
In Memory of Alzbeta and John Carnogursky	
By Mr. & Mrs. Joseph J. Carnogursky, Boonton, NJ	300.00
Sylvia A Chai, Tampa, FL.....	10.00
Joseph Choclos, Flourtown, PA.....	200.00
Mary E. Ciganek, Lansford, PA.....	25.00
Rev. Msgr. John J. Demkovich, Clifton, NJ	2,000.00
Daniel and Mary Ann Dzubeck, Avon Lake, OH.....	100.00
Mary Ann Ewasko, Wilkes Barre, PA.....	25.00
Margaret and John Ferri, Bethlehem, PA.....	100.00
Mary Ford, Bethlehem, PA	20.00
Frances E. Gasper, Rocky River, OH.....	50.00
M. A. Gaydos, Hershey, PA	50.00
Helen M. Gebura, Cleveland, OH.....	100.00
Marie A. Golias, Lakewood, OH.....	25.00
Benjamin Gombar, Saginaw, MI.....	20.00
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic, Sayre, PA	300.00
Andrew & Margaret Hvozdozovic, Wilkes Barre, PA.....	25.00
Rev. Dominik Kalata, Allentown, PA.....	250.00
David J. Kmetz, West Harrison, NY	50.00
Anna Korcak, Waldwick, NJ	10.00
Samuel Krempasky, Massillon, OH.....	100.00
Joseph A. Kovalyak, Palm Coast, FL.....	25.00
Helen Kozon, Brooklyn Heights, OH.....	250.00
Jerome Kozon, Brooklyn Heights, OH.....	250.00
Emerick A. Kravec, Charleroi, PA.....	25.00
In Memory of my parents, Paul and Stephanie Ballay	
by Emily Kubin, Otsego, MI.....	50.00
Joseph Kushner, High Point, NC.....	25.00

In Memory of Blessed Bishop Basil Hopko

By La Rabida Council #166, Knights of Columbus

Yonkers, NY.....	100.00
Calvin and Joan Larkin, Wanamassa, NJ.....	50.00
Edward and Helen Lauriha, Spring Hill, FL.....	10.00
Christina Lewandoski, Hershey, PA.....	35.00
Andrew and Shirley Lucas, Niagara Fall, NY.....	20.00
Robert Tapak Magruder, Louisville, KY.....	25.00
Magdalene Malshefski, Nanticoke, PA.....	20.00
Gertrude Massey, Long Beach, CA.....	25.00
Gerald Matcho, Flemington, NJ.....	25.00
Theresa Halcisak McMaster, New Castle, DE.....	100.00
Mary M. Migatulski, Wilkes Barre, PA.....	25.00
Rev. Thomas A.Nasta, Philadelphia, PA.....	50.00
Joseph Neslusan, Portsmouth, NH.....	50.00
North End Slovak Citizens Club, Wilkes Barre, PA.....	200.00
Joseph Oros, Reading, PA.....	20.00
Betty C. Pirnick, Wilkes Barre, PA.....	20.00
Andrea Rahl, Tarrytown, NY.....	100.00
Mary Robek, Superior, WI.....	50.00
Rev. Msgr. John R. Sasway, Lilly, PA.....	100.00
Sue Ann and John Seich, Canton, OH.....	200.00
Joseph Seliga, Chicago, IL.....	20.00
Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Siffrin, III, Youngstown, OH.....	100.00
Elizabeth Slovenkai, Scranton, PA.....	100.00
Brandi Solomon, Scranton, PA.....	200.00
Joseph Stankay, Pittsburgh, PA.....	100.00
Thomas Stolarek, Minneapolis, MN.....	40.00
Dorothy Sullivan, Nanticoke, PA.....	10.00
In Memory of Daniel J. and Mary Yancus Tanzone	
Daniel F. Tanzone, Yonkers, NY.....	100.00
John G. Tkacik, Bridgeport, CT.....	100.00
Joanne Verespej, Torrance, CA.....	10.00
Mary Ann Vetti, Stamford, CT.....	100.00
Bernadette Yencha, Wilkes Barre, PA.....	100.00

Elizabeth Zaharek, Torrington, CT..... 50.00
\$ 7,590.00

The final account of the 2013 Slovak Catholic Federation
Saints Cyril and Methodius Annual Appeal is\$39,678.41

Donations to this year's 36th annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal will be accepted throughout 2014. Funds raised aid the Pontifical Slovak College of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Rome which this year celebrates the 51st anniversary of its dedication. Built principally with the assistance of the Slovak communities in the United States and Canada, the college serves as a residence for Slovak priests pursuing graduate degrees at the various Pontifical universities. In addition, religious communities of men and women in Slovakia receive financial support. This year marks the 1,151st anniversary of the arrival of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Slovakia. It was in 863 A.D. that the brother saints, who are the great Apostles of the Slavs began their evangelization efforts among our ancestors. In gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of faith which we have received, let us do our part to assist the Church in Slovakia by supporting this year's 36th annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal. Tax deductible donations, however large or small will be much appreciated. Send checks payable to Slovak Catholic Federation to the national secretary-treasurer, Dolores M. Evanko, 173 Berner Ave., Hazleton, PA 18201. We thank all the donors who so generously donated to the 2013 appeal and look forward to their continued support in 2014.



PAN BOH ZAPLAT! MAY GOD REPAY YOUR GENEROSITY!
THANK YOU!

Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdovic
National First Vice President
Slovak Catholic Federation
Director of the 2014 Appeal

Dolores M. Evanko
National Secretary-Treasurer
Slovak Catholic Federation

Held in Clifton, N.J.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Group 1, "Msgr. Stephen Krasula"

The annual meeting of Group 1, Passaic, N.J. under the patronage of Msgr. Stephen J. Krasula, P.A. was held on Sunday, November 17, 2013 at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Clifton, N.J. The program began with the officers and delegates marching in a body to the church for the 10:30 a.m. Slovak Mass celebrated for the living and deceased members of Group 1 by the Rev. Martin Kertys. Father Kertys extended a warm welcome to the assembled Sokols and Sokolky and thanked them for the wonderful witness of faith the organization reflects.

Following the liturgy, Group 1 President, Attorney John D. Pogorelec and our organization's General Counsel, called the meeting to order in the church hall. In the absence of the Group chaplain, he called on Msgr. John J. Demkovich, who is in residence at the parish and serves as chaplain of Assembly 1 and Wreath 2, to offer the opening prayer, recalling our deceased members, including Robert Raichel, a member of the Physical Fitness Board of Group 1 who passed away in September. The president then called on the Sports Director Eric Topczij to lead the assemblage in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Since Assembly 219 of Yonkers, N.Y. was hosting this year's meeting, the president called on Daniel F. Tanzone to offer a welcome on behalf of the Yonkers lodge. Brother Tanzone thanked Assembly 162 of Clifton for making the necessary arrangements to host the meeting and luncheon.

The president then called on the secretary Daniel F. Tanzone to read the roll call of officers and delegates. With the exception of the Rev. Richard D. Baker, chaplain; Kevin Matlon, Janice Matlon, Kelly Norvis, Joseph Kryzysik, and Gerard Freda of the Physical Fitness Board, all officers were in attendance. Delegates represented the following lodges: Assembly 1 and Wreath 2, Passaic, N.J.; Assembly 24, Boonton, N.J.; Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.; Assembly 182, New York City and Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

The president then called on the secretary to read the minutes of the Group 1 officers' meetings held during the past year. On a motion by Charles Holodak, seconded by Christine Smith, the minutes of the February 16, 2013 meeting were accepted as read. On a motion by Thomas Krack, seconded by Louis Smeriglio, the minutes of the meeting held September 21, 2013 were accepted. The secretary then read a letter of gratitude from the family of the late Robert Raichel, a Member of the Physical Fitness Board who passed away on September 9, 2013.

Reports of the Officers

The treasurer Anthony Glodava presented his report. He distributed written copies of the annual report to all the delegates. Acceptance of the report was delayed until the report of the auditors might be presented.

The president, John D. Pogorelec vacated the chair to the vice president, John D. Pogorelec, Jr. so as to present his report. Brother Pogorelec recalled that he has served as

president for the past 34 years. He presented an overview of his activities during the past year including his participation at the Group Presidents Meeting held in Pittsburgh in August. Networking with the leaders of other Groups offers a wonderful opportunity to learn from others as well as sharing the successes of Group 1 with others. He thanked all for their continued cooperation and looked forward to continued success of our various sporting and fraternal activities. On a motion by Peter Walentowicz, seconded by Christine Smith, the report of the president was accepted. The vice president then turned over the chair once again to the president.

A report on behalf of the chaplain, Rev. Richard D. Baker was presented by Brother Tanzone. Father Baker expressed thanks and gratitude for the opportunity of serving as Group 1's chaplain. Unfortunately due to his parochial duties as pastor of St. Malachy's - the Actors Chapel in New York City, he was unable to be present at the annual meeting. On a motion by Eric Topczij, seconded by David Bulwin, the report of the chaplain was accepted.

The vice president, John D. Pogorelec, Jr. then presented his report. Brother Pogorelec expressed thanks and gratitude to all for their cooperation in promoting the various activities of Group 1 and his capacity as per the bylaws as vice president. He indicated that he was pleased to serve in this capacity. On a motion by Robert Baran, seconded by James Matlon, the report of the vice president was accepted as presented.

The report of the secretary, Daniel F. Tanzone was then presented. Brother Tanzone recalled the various activities in which he partici-

pated during the past year and thanked all for their cooperation and support. On a motion by Albert Pogorelec, seconded by Charles Holodak, the report of the secretary was accepted.

The auditors, David Bulwin and John J. Termyna then presented their report. Brother Termyna indicated that the auditors had reviewed all the books and financial records of the Group and found them to be in order. He commended the treasurer on a job well done. After presenting his report, he then moved for the adoption of the report of the treasurer, Anthony Glodava, seconded by Peter Walentowicz and accepted.

The president then called on the sports director Eric Topczij to present the report of the Physical Fitness Board. Brother Topczij gave an overview of the various sports activities in which Group 1 participated. Group 1 hosted its annual bowling tournament in April. Several teams from Group 1 competed at the 67th International Bowling Tournament in Buffalo, N.Y. in May. Our Group 1A team took home the first place team championship at our 26th International Softball Tournament held in Drifton, Pa. in June. Nine Group 1 athletes competed at the 46th International Slet in Slippery Rock, Pa. in July. Several Group 1 golf enthusiasts participated in the 58th International Golf Tournament held in Barnesville, Pa. in August. We hosted the annual Eastern District Bowling Tournament in Clifton, N.J. in November. He also reported that this year's Children's Bowlingfest was highly successful with about 40 youngsters participating. He anticipated our participation at the 2014 Eastern District Basketball and Volleyball Tournament to

be hosted by Group 2 in Stratford, Conn. in April. He thanked all who assisted and participated in the annual Spaghetti Dinner fund-raiser held in Clifton, N.J. in 2013 and looked forward to continued cooperation in the 2014 event. On a sad note, Robert Raichel, a Member of the Group 1 Physical Fitness Board passed away in September. On a motion by Daniel Gurcak, seconded by Joseph Lojek, the report of the Physical Fitness Board was accepted.

Continuing in the reports of the officers, Supreme Assistant Director of Sports and Athletics James C. Matlon presented the written reports of our Group 1 Physical Director Kevin Matlon, Physical Directress Jenna Freda, and Assistant Physical Director Gerard Freda. He was pleased to report that our athletes had a most enjoyable and rewarding Slet experience. On a motion by Christine Smith, seconded by Peter Walentowicz, the reports of the Physical Director, Directress and their assistants were accepted as presented.

At this point, the president indicated that the luncheon was ready. He asked that during the luncheon the various committees might meet to prepare their reports to the annual meeting. At this point, the president welcomed the Rev. Jody Baran, associate pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Passaic, N.J. He asked him to offer the blessing before the meal. It was recalled that our organization has a rich history of members over the years who were Greek Catholics. In 1905 when our organization was founded its original name was the "Roman and Greek Catholic Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol." After enjoying a wonderful

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Obituaries...

Recalling the memory of Gregory Hodos

Family and friends celebrated the life of Gregory Hodos at a committal Mass celebrated on Friday, February 7, 2014 at 11 a.m. at the Church of St. Christine in Youngstown, Oh. Gregory, who passed away on June 8, 2013, after



a brief, sudden illness, was the beloved son of Richard Hodos and the former Rosemary Susor Hodos. He was born in Youngstown on December 28, 1963. Greg was a longtime member of Assembly 108 and well-known Group 17 participant who would accompany his parents to many fraternal golf tournaments as well as Sokol fraternal events on both the local and national levels.

Brother Greg was employed at the Meshel Workshop by the Mahoning County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and was a very diligent worker. Greg was a Special Olympics participant and a gold medalist on both the state and local levels. His love of many sports, including football, ice hockey, car racing, and demolition derby, was complimented by his love of accompanying his dad on numerous golf outings. Greg had a great admiration for all branches of the America's military, spending many hours reading books recounting their exploits.

Brother Greg was greatly loved and deeply missed by his parents, his brother, Rick and sisters, Stephanie and Kathy, as well as his extended family, friends and fellow Group 17 Sokols and Sokolky. May he rest in peace.

Joseph R. Yurko, 95 was McKees Rock, Pa. member

Joseph R. Yurko passed away peacefully on December 7, 2013 at the West Hills Health and Rehabilitation Center in Moon Township, Pa. He was 95.

Joseph was born November 13, 1918 in McKees Rocks, Pa. to Slovak immigrant parents, Andrew Yurko (Yurkov) and the former Julia Presuk. He was educated locally and was a long-time employee of the Gordon Oil Company in McKees Rocks. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran and served in the Pacific Theatre with the 915th Ordnance Heavy Automotive Maintenance Company. For most of his life, Joseph was an active member of the former St. Mark's Slovak Parish. He was an active member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, most recently as a member of Wreath 86. He was very proud of his Slovak heritage and attended many Slovak Day celebrations at Kennywood Park. He loved football and followed the Steelers, Pitt

and Sto-Rox teams avidly.

Brother Joseph was a wonderful son, brother and uncle and he will be greatly missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his beloved sister, Helen Murawski and her husband, Anthony and sister-in-law, Bernadine Saunders; nine nieces, five nephews, 22 great-nephews and nieces and 14 great-great nieces and nephews. Family, friends and fellow fraternalists paid their final respects to Brother Joseph at the McDermott Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on December 11 the church of St. Mary, a worship site of the Parish of St. John of God. Interment followed locally. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Brother Yurko were requested on behalf of the School Sisters of St. Francis, Mt. Assisi Convent, 934 Forest Ave., Bellevue, PA 15202. May our Brother Joseph, who so beautifully mirrored our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith, now rest in peace.

Walter J. Koval, Sr., 91 Sleepy Hollow, N.Y member

Walter J. Koval, Sr. passed away peacefully on February 10 in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. at the age of 91.

A native of North Tarrytown, now Sleepy Hollow, he was born to Slovak immigrant parents, Charles Koval and the former Anna Varga. He was a lifelong resident of the village and longtime member of the former Holy Cross Slovak Parish. Walter and the former Gloria Galassi exchanged their marriage vows in Holy Cross Church in October 1947 with the pastor, Msgr. Andrew A. Novajovsky officiating. She predeceased him in 2012.

Walter was a longtime member of Assembly 63 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and was an active participant in the various sporting

activities, both on the local lodge and Group I levels in his youth.

Brother Koval served in World War II in the European Theater along with his twin brother Joseph and brothers William and Edward, also twins. After military service, Walter began work at General Motors' Chevrolet Division plant as did many of his siblings. He retired in 1985. In addition to the Sokol, he was a member of VFW Post #1939, UAW Local 664 and St. Theresa's Parish.

Walter is survived by his son, Walter J. Koval, Jr. and his spouse, the former Catherine Foley; 4 grandchildren: Kim Koval, Sherri Prohaszka, Keith and Kevin (Maria) Koval and 8 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by sisters, Cath-

Lodge Jottings

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projects.

On Sunday, March 23, Eileen Milius Granata will host "The Little Wings of Hope" as a fundraiser in memory of her daughter, Bethany who passed away several years ago. This organization helps children and young adults with problems and helps to get their lives back together again. We hope that many of our Wreath sisters will assist and support this benefit.

Assembly 16 and Wreath 22 has lost one of our most colorful members, Joe (Yites) Gryvsky. Brother Joe passed away this past month. Joe and his family attended our bowling tournaments for many years and entertained everyone with his antics. Joe loved to dance at our bowling banquets with his family and his many friends. Our sympathies go out to the Gryvsky family in their time of sorrow. May Brother Joe rest in peace. He will be sorely missed.

Finally, we invite all our Wreath sisters to join us for our March meeting and also to stay after to enjoy our regular brunch and relax with their fellow Wreath sisters. An enjoyable evening is assured. With warmest fraternal wishes, may I remain

Zdar Boh!

Joan Yanosick

Recording Secretary

17th Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves heritage tour to Slovakia

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made and ticket is issued.

Also unique to the tour is an informative luncheon meeting with the tour participants regarding tips on currency, dos and don'ts, luggage preparation, clothing and other related tour items. The tour departs out of Washington's Dulles International Airport to Vienna, Austria. A Mercedes benz, air-conditioned bus with a rest room awaits the tour participants in Vienna for the one hour ride to Slovakia's beautiful capital city of Bratislava. If you ever thought of visiting the land of your ancestors, there's no better way than to join in the 17th annual Slovak Heritage Tour sponsored by the Youngstown, Ohio - Spisska Nova Ves, Slovakia Sister Cities association.

erine Vasko, Helen DeMilia and Dorothy Capossella. He was predeceased by sister, Mary Handzo and brothers, Charles, John, George, William, Edward and Joseph.

Family, friends and fellow fraternalists paid their final respects to Brother Koval at the Coffey Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated in St. Theresa of Avila Church in Sleepy Hollow on February 15. Interment followed at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. May our Brother Walter, who so beautifully mirrored out Sokol way of life, now rest in peace.

In Memory of... Announcing the Memorial Scholarship Fund!!!



Julie Ann Dobbs

Supreme Vice-President

Have you found yourself looking for a way to memorialize a lost loved one or fellow Group/Wreath/Assembly member? Why not make a donation in their honor to the newly developed Memorial Scholarship fund? Your donation will assure that an annual scholarship be given out to a college age student who best exemplifies the meaning of fraternalism and volunteerism. Here's how it works:

Send a check or money order to the Memorial Scholarship Fund clearly indicating the name to be memorialized. You can find a donation form on line at

<http://slovakcatholicssokol.org/members/memorialfrmframe.htm> or simply send your donation to:

Dennis J. Zifcak

Museum Treasurer

Memorial Scholarship Fund

205 Madison St.

Passaic, NJ 07055

- Your bequest will be recognized in the *Falcon* as well as permanently added to the Memorial Scholarship Donation Log which will be kept at the Sokol Museum.
- Depending on the amount of funds collected, we will be able to award at least two \$500 scholarships annually. The hope is that the donated funds will begin a self-perpetuating interest bearing scholarship account.

Have you recently lost a loved one? You might consider earmarking donations to this fund in their memory. Keep the spirit of your fellow Sokol alive by investing in a way that their fraternal dedication will not be forgotten.

Keep Your Slovak Catholic Sokol Home Office Numbers Handy

TOLL FREE NUMBER	- 1-800-886-7656
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YOUR BENEFICIARIES

When was the last time you looked at your designated beneficiaries on your valuable Sokol insurance policy? How important is it? Just think about how much your life has changed. Have you married, divorced, had children, maybe you lost a loved one? This is an item you should consider annually. If you do need to make changes to any of your policies, contact the Home Office at 800-886-7656.

Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent

(Continued from page 4)

and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered him,

"Again it is written,

"You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test."

Then the devil took him up

to a very high mountain,

and showed him

all the kingdoms of the world

in their magnificence,

and he said to him,

All these I shall give to you,

if you will prostrate yourself

and worship me."

At this, Jesus said to him,

"Get away, Satan!

It is written:

"The Lord, your God,

shall you worship

and him alone shall you serve."

Then the devil left him and, behold,

angels came and ministered to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Group 1, "Msgr. Stephen Krasula"

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luncheon, President John D. Pogorelec called the second session of the annual meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Committee Reports

The president called on Charles Holodak, chairperson of the Verifications Committee to present his report. He indicated that there were a total of 12 officers, 17 delegates and 1 guest present at the annual meeting. He then introduced the members of the committee, Dorothy Lukas and Clifford Ainsworth and moved for the adoption of the report, seconded by Albert Pogorelec and accepted.

Jane Krause presented the report of the Salaries and Surety Bonds Committee. She recommended that all salaries remain the same "na starom." She introduced the members of the committee which included Anna Walentowicz, Joseph Lojek and Blase Lorenc and moved for the adoption of the report, seconded by Anna Korcak and

accepted.

Anna Korcak then presented the report of the Petitions and Grievances Committee. She introduced the Members of the committee, Maria Gnida and Daniel Gurcak. The committee indicated that there were no grievances and recommended that a donation be given to SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish as well as a stipend be given the celebrant of the annual meeting Mass, the Rev. Martin Kertys. Sister Korcak moved for the adoption of the report, seconded by Daniel Gurcak and accepted.

Report of the Resolutions Committee

1) Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to the members of Group 1 who were awarded scholarship grants in 2013. These include: Ryan Sheehan, a member of Assembly 162; Kayla Kopchak and Ashley Pinck, both members of Wreath 2, who received \$1,000, S.C.S. college scholarship grants; Kevin Matlon, a member of Assembly 24, who was

awarded a \$2,500 Emil Slavik Memorial Scholarship Grant; Rebecca Hess, a member of Assembly 162; Viera Pulver, a member of Assembly 182; Ava Rose Matthews, John W. Pollack, Christian Kowatch, Ethan Romagnoli and Timothy Romagnoli, all of Assembly 219 who received \$250 Catholic Grade School Grants. We encourage our young people to apply for our organization's scholarship grants in 2014.

2) Thanks and gratitude go out to all our Group 1 recommenders who enrolled new members in 2013. Through their efforts, the message of Sokol fraternalism will continue for generations to come.

3) We offer congratulations and best wishes to all our Group 1 athletes who competed at the 46th International Slet this past summer in the best traditions of Sokol good sportsmanship. We likewise congratulate our softball enthusiasts who participated in this summer's 26th international softball tournament. We especially salute the members of the Group 1A team who took home first place team honors at this competition.

4) Congratulations to the Rev. Richard A. Bay on the occasion of his appointment as pastor of the Parish of St. Simon in Green Pond, N.J.

5) Warmest fraternal greetings to all who had a hand in the successful closing Centennial year celebration of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Clifton, N.J. We commend all those Sokol members of Assembly 162 who served on the parish Centennial Committee under the capable leadership of Attorney John D. Pogorelec, Jr. our Group vice president. May the second century of SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish be as successful as its first.

6) Congratulations to John Kuhlman, Honorary President of Assembly 182 in New York City on the occasion of the publication of his new book, "Freedom's Gate" a memoir which chronicles his life during World War II, the Cold War and his efforts within the American Slovak community. The 427-page book is both interesting and informative.

7) Congratulations to all those who had a hand in the success of this year's highly successful 36th New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival held at the PNC Cultural Center in Holmdel, N.J. on September 29th.

8) Congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Anne Kakos, R.N. of Yonkers, N.Y. She was recently honored by the Yonkers Historical Society with its Special Recognition Award. Anne was recognized for her community involvement for more than a half century. She is an active member of Assembly 219.

9) Congratulations go out to our Group 1 Secretary Daniel F. Tanzone who was recently honored by the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius who presented him with the Father Matthew Jankola Lifetime Commitment to Servant Leadership Award for Evangelization.

10) Thanks and gratitude go out to Assembly 219 of Yonkers, N.Y. for hosting this year's annual meeting. Likewise we thank Assembly 162 of Clifton for their efforts in preparing for this year's annual meeting.

11) We resolve to continue our support for the work of the Slovak Catholic Federation and its annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal as well as the work of the Slovak League of America.

12) Finally, we thank the Rev. Martin Kertys for celebrating the annual meeting Mass for the deceased members of Group 1. We thank him for his priestly ministry among us and in particular for promoting our Slovak language and heritage.

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee, Peter Bakarich moved for the adoption of the report, seconded by Charles Holodak.

The president then called on Albert Pogorelec, chairperson of the New Motions Committee to present their report. He introduced the members of the committee which included George Brincka, Anne Kakos, Jozef Korcak, James C.

Matlon and Daniel Gurcak.

Report of the New Motions Committee

We recommend that Group 1 continue to host its annual bowling tournament. We likewise encourage our participation in the annual Eastern District Basketball and Volleyball and the Eastern District Bowling tournaments. We recommend that we continue to host the annual Children's Bowlingfest for our younger members and host the annual Spaghetti dinner as a fundraiser and opportunity for our members to enjoy Sokol fellowship. We should encourage our members to participate in the various international sporting events hosted by our organization. We encourage parents to consider sending their children to the Sokol Camp at Camp Fitch in North Springfield, Pa. scheduled for August 2014. The home office will subsidize the cost of this camp which will encourage children to participate in our Sokol sporting events. We also encourage Group 1 to consider hosting a Fraternal Insurance Seminar and a St. Martin's Day celebration if possible. We move for the adoption of the New Motions Committee. Brother Pogorelec moved for the adoption of the report, seconded by Thomas Krack and accepted.

Under Old business, discussion followed regarding expenses related to our various sporting events in which Group 1 members participate. It was recommended that no check should be issued for such expenses without corresponding receipts. Travel distance to various sporting events should be considered when considering transportation expenses. On a motion by John Termyna, seconded by Robert Baran the recommendation was accepted.

At this time, Brother Eric Topczij recommended that for a full complement of Physical Fitness Board members that two individuals be considered. He recommended that Maria Topczij and Charles Holodak be elected to the board. Brother Topczij's recommendations were Accepted.

Regarding election of all the other officers, on a motion by Peter Bakarich, seconded by Albert Pogorelec, it was agreed that all current officers be reelected to serve in their respective positions. Accepted.

The secretary announced that in the continuing rotation of various lodges hosting the annual meeting, it was Assembly 182 of New York City's turn to host the November 2014 annual meeting. The exact date will be forthcoming.

With no further business, on a motion by Clifford Ainsworth, seconded by Maria Gnida, the annual meeting was adjourned. A closing prayer was offered for our deceased members followed by the singing of the anthem of Slovakia, Nad Tatrou sa blýska, Hej Slovaci and God Bless America. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel F. Tanzone
Group 1 Secretary



LIFE INSURANCE NEEDS WORKSHEET

This worksheet can help you get a general sense of how much life insurance you need to protect your family. Before buying any insurance products, you should consult with a qualified insurance professional for a more thorough analysis of your needs. This worksheet assumes you died today.

Income

1. **Total annual income your family would need if you died today**
What your family needs, before taxes, to maintain its current standard of living (Typically between 60% - 75% of total income) \$ _____

2. **Annual income your family would receive from other sources**
For example, spouse's earnings or a fixed pension.¹ (Do not include income earned on your assets, as it is addressed later in the calculation) \$ _____

3. **Income to be replaced**
Subtract line 2 from line 1 \$ _____

4. **Capital needed for income**
Multiply line 3 by appropriate factor in Table A. Factor _____ \$ _____

Expenses

5. **Funeral and other final expenses**
Typically the greater of \$15,000 or 4% of your estate \$ _____

6. **Mortgage and other outstanding debts**
Include mortgage balance, credit card balance, car loans, etc. \$ _____

7. **Capital needed for college**
(2007-2008 average 4-year cost: Private \$146,210; Public \$61,499²)

	Estimated 4-Year Cost	Appropriate Factor in Table B	NPV	
Child 1	_____	X _____	= _____	+] → \$ _____
Child 2	_____	X _____	= _____	
Child 3	_____	X _____	= _____	

8. **Total capital required**
Add items 4, 5, 6 and 7 \$ _____

Assets

9. **Savings and investments** Bank accounts, money market accounts, CDs, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, annuities, etc. \$ _____

10. **Retirement savings** IRAs, 401(k)s, SEP plans, SIMPLE IRA plans, Keoghs, pension and profit sharing plans³ \$ _____

11. **Present amount of life insurance**
Including group insurance as well as insurance purchased on your own \$ _____

12. **Total income producing assets**
Add lines 9, 10 and 11 \$ _____

13. **Life insurance needed**
Subtract line 12 from line 8 \$ _____

¹Social Security benefits, which may be available, have not been factored into this calculation.
²Trends in College Pricing, 2007, The College Board. Costs reflect total charges, which includes tuition, fees, room and board.
³Distributions from most retirement savings plans are subject to ordinary income tax rates.

Prefer to Use an Online Calculator? Visit the nonprofit LIFE Foundation's life insurance needs calculator at www.lifehappens.org/lifecalculator.



The Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping consumers make smart insurance decisions to safeguard their families' financial futures. ©2008 LIFE. All rights reserved.

Table A

Years Income Needed	Factor
10	8.8
15	12.4
20	15.4
25	18.1
30	20.4
35	22.4
40	24.1

Table B

Years before College	Factor
5	.95
10	.91
15	.86
20	.82

Note: These tables help you determine Net Present Value (NPV), the amount of capital required today to satisfy future income or college cost needs, given an assumed investment return of 6%, inflation of 3% for living costs and 5% for college costs.



The Mixing Bowl

MUSHROOM-BARLEY MINISTRONE

6 oz. sliced mixed dried mushrooms
1 onion, chopped
1 tbs. olive oil
2 pkgs.(11 oz. each) frozen
zucchini vegetable blend
1 cup uncooked quick pearled barley
2 cans(14 oz. each) low-sodium
vegetable broth
1/2 cup chopped fresh basil
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

In a pot over medium-high heat, cook mushrooms and onions in oil 4 minutes. Add next 3 ingredients. Cover; let simmer 20 minutes, stirring occasionally and adding basil after 10 minutes. Serve topped with Parmesan cheese.

Health bonus - Protect heart health with barley. Eating 1 cup of fiber-rich barley per day has been shown to significantly lower levels of "bad" LDL cholesterol.

HOLUPKY - PIGS IN A BLANKET

1 large head cabbage
2 lbs. ground beef
1 lb. ground pork or ground
pork sausage, the plain kind
1 cup rice, regular not minute rice
1 quart sauerkraut, rinse and drain
well
1 tsp. salt
2 cups water
3 tbsp. butter
1/2 cup dry bread crumbs

Remove core, place whole head of cabbage into boiling water just long enough to loosen leaves. Mix the meats, rice, kraut and salt well and form into balls(about 3/4 cup of mixture for each ball). Take a cabbage leaf and wrap around ball and place in a heavy kettle. Continue this until you have the kettle filled. Add 2 cups water and tomato juice or soup, cover and bring to a boil over medium heat. Then simmer for 2 hours, covered. The Holupky can be served with noodles. Boil noodles and drain. Then in a pan, melt about 3 tbsp. butter, add 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs and brown lightly. Then add the needles and mix well.

- Posel

FRIED DOUGHNUTS - ŠIŠKY

These delicious, fried doughnuts are pronounced "Shishi"ky
2 eggs
1 tablespoon sugar
1 package instant yeast
17 oz. milk - room temperature
A bit of salt
2 1/2 cups flour
Canola oil or lard
Powered sugar, sifted

Mix together the yeast, milk and sugar, and proof. Once the yeast is proven, add beaten eggs, a pinch of salt, and mix. Slowly add a little flour at a time so that the dough isn't too sticky. Let the dough rise in a covered bowl at room temperature until double, about 1 hour. Roll the dough into a log, and let rise another 30-40 min. Cut the log into small pieces, about 1-2 inches thick (or roll into balls). Heat the oil in a tall pot. Drop the dough balls into the hot oil. When golden (only a minute or so),

remove from the oil. Dust with powdered sugar.

POTATO PANCAKES

3 large potatoes
one egg
salt
marjoram
black pepper
half a small onion
1-2 cloves of garlic
1 spoon of flour, oil

Using a fine food grater, shred 2 or 3 large peeled potatoes. Then take a strainer and press it down on the potato shreds. Turn the pot over and drain out as much water as possible. You can also take a wooden spoon and press out more water. Then repeat with the strainer. Shred half of a small onion and 1 or 2 cloves of garlic. Add one egg, salt, marjoram, ground black pepper, onion and garlic and one tablespoon of flour. Mix together. Heat up oil. Then add about two tablespoons of potato mixture per pancake. Be careful here, because if water is left in the mixture, the oil will splatter out. Use the back side of the spoon to flatten out the pancake. Fry each side for about 4 minutes, until the pancakes get nicely dark brown. It helps to use two spatulas when flipping the pancakes. Serve warm. The pancakes should be crunchy on the outside and nice and juicy on the inside.

CHICKEN PAPRIKASH

One whole chicken
half of a small onion
2 small tomatoes
quarter of green pepper
two cups flour
one cup sour cream
salt, paprika
Cut chicken and fry about 10 minutes until the skin starts getting crispy. Dice half a small onion and add to the pot. Add one tablespoon of paprika and enough hot water to cover the concoction. Let simmer for about an hour, adding more water as needed. Chop up two small tomatoes and quarter of a green pepper. Add to the pot. Let simmer for another 20 minutes or so until everything is nice and tender.

Combine 2 cups of flour and 1 cup of sour cream. Mix well until you get a mixture resembling yogurt. Add the cream to the pot, one wooden spoon at a time. Cook until everything dissolves. The resulting mixture should not be too watery. Just like any other sauce. Serve with potato dumplings (halušky).

POTATO DUMPLINGS

2 large potatoes
2 cups flour
salt

Peel potatoes and shred them using a fine food grater. Pour out as much water as you can without dumping out any of the potatoes. Add salt and two cups of flour. Mix well. Place the dough on a wooden board. Then using a knife, "toss" the hалуšky into boiling salted water. Smaller, the better. Boil for few more minutes and scoop out with a large perforated spoon.

Blood Donors: Ultimate Givers

Due to publicity about techniques that allow patients to donate their own blood and receive it back when they need surgery, some people may feel it is no longer necessary to donate blood to the community supply. In fact, according to the American Association of Blood Banks, the need for blood is constant, and volunteer blood donors contribute at least 95 percent of blood used in the United States.

If all those who are eligible would donate on a regular basis, blood needs would be met and shortages would be a thing of the past. Even in today's high technology medical environment, the need for human blood continues.

Give the gift of life. Donate blood this month.

Watch your blood pressure

One in three adult Americans has high blood pressure, according to the American Heart Association. High blood pressure adds to the workload of the heart and arteries, which may contribute to stroke, heart attack, kidney failure and congestive heart failure. There is accumulating evidence that lowering blood pressure reduces the risk of stroke and coronary heart disease.

Fat Tuesday Coming

The Mardi Gras was introduced to New Orleans by early French settlers. The carnival atmosphere originated in medieval France as a pre-Lenten spree before the solemn days of fasting.

On the first day, the celebration was appropriately called Fat Tuesday, a term from which the name Mardi Gras later derived. This year's Fat Tuesday is set for March 4.

Year of the Horse

January 27 marked the year 4702 on the Chinese lunar calendar, or the year of the horse.

People born in the year of the horse are popular because they are both cheerful and gregarious. Also very talented, they enjoy music, sports and theater.

One the other hoof, horse people are very independent, resent advice from others and can be quick to anger.

Gng hay fat choy! Wishing you plentiful oats and hay, or happiness and prosperity.

Do Nots Make Good Sense

Do not contradict people, even if you are sure you are right.

Do not be inquisitive about the affairs of even your most intimate friends.

Do not underrate anything because you do not possess it. Do not believe all the evil you hear.

Do not repeat gossip, even if it does interest a crowd.

Do not jeer at anybody's beliefs,

Do not voice you aches and pains, for few care whether you have an earache, headache, or stomach ache.

Do not try to be anything else but a sensitive human being; and that means one who has consideration

Lajcak: OSCE should serve as mediator in Ukraine

(Continued from page 12)

fairs Minister Miroslav Lajcak told members of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee on February 13.

"It's no secret that Russia accuses the EU of being biased and supporting anti-government protesters. In Ukraine, the EU is not perceived as an unbiased player and as soon as your impartiality is in doubt, your role as mediator is over," said Lajcak as to why the EU can't play the role of a go-between in Ukraine.

Lajcak believes that Ukraine respects the OSCE, as Ukraine is an OSCE member and even held the organization's presidency until the end of 2013. Therefore Kiev should have few reservations about its acceptance. "At the moment, the

OSCE presidency is held by Switzerland, a neutral country with experience in delicate missions. I recommended to my Swiss colleague that OSCE should assume this role - if an agreement among all parties involved is reached, which would be good," he added.

Lajcak considers the situation in Ukraine to be quite complex. He is promoting political dialogue as the best course of action, while showing respect for democratic principles and steering clear of violence. "As a direct neighbor, we need to avoid being seen as biased. It's up to Ukrainians to elect their new government," claimed Lajcak, adding that Slovakia is ready to share its experience with Ukraine in its democratization.

A total of 722 people deprived of Slovak Passports due to citizenship act

For three and a half years with the State Citizenship Act in effect(June 17, 2010 - February 4, 2014), it has deprived a total of 722 people of their Slovak citizenship, according to the statistics of the Interior Ministry.

Out of the total, there were 310 men and 412 women. Most of them(289 people) lost their citizenship due to accepting Czech citizenship. Next came people receiving German(143), Austrian(94), British(62), Hungarian(47), U.S.(17), Dutch(13), Norwegian(12), Belgian(7), Irish(6), Italian(and Swiss citizenship(both 5), French, Canadian and Australian(all three 4), Icelandic, Chinese and Swedish(all three 2), Ukrainian, Russian, Danish and New Zealand(all 1 person).

The Slovak Citizenship Act was passed by the first government of Robert Fico(2006-10) in response to the controversial Hungarian Dual Citizenship Act, which gave an unprecedented opportunity for

Hungarians living in neighboring countries like Slovakia and Romania to enjoy the benefits of Hungarian citizenship while living abroad. According to the Slovak legislation, all people who become citizens of a foreign country, lose their Slovak citizenship.

In addition, the legislation is being looked into by the Interior Ministry, which has been engaged in drafting a milder version of the law. The revisited amendment to the Act is expected to be submitted for interministerial comments in the first half of this year. Interior Minister Robert Kalinak envisages in this respect that the amendment could grant the people who lost their Slovak citizenship an opportunity to claim it back under certain circumstances.

The Slovak legislation is being looked into by the Constitutional Court. This process was initiated by Gabor Gal(Most-Hid MP), according to whom the law is unconstitutional.

YOUR BENEFICIARIES

When was the last time you looked at your designated beneficiaries on your valuable Sokol insurance policy? How important is it? Just think about how much your life has changed. Have you married, divorced, had children, maybe you lost a loved one? This is an item you should consider annually. If you do need to make changes to any of your policies, contact the Home Office at 800-886-7656.

for everyone.

Exercise - for Life

The fitness levels of youngsters have not improved despite the great emphasis on exercising. Adults are working out more, but kids are just not getting enough physical activity. Find out what your school or recreation center offers for youth. Youngsters should have 30 minutes of vigorous exercise every day. And it's a habit they should develop at an early age.

Ash Wednesday - The first day of Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting

which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption.

Why we receive the ashes? Following the example of the Nine Levites, who did penance in sackcloth and ashes, our foreheads are marked with ashes to humble our hearts and reminds us that life passes away on Earth. We remember this when we are told "Remember, Man is dust, and unto dust you shall return."

Ashes are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church, and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice.

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year.

SPOLOČENSKÉ PODUJATIA

Tanečná zábava v Perth Amboy, NJ

Slovenské kultúrne stredisko v Linden, NJ usporiada tanečnú zábavu v sobotu 1. marca v hale Kostola St. Nicholas, 320 Washington Street v Perth Amboy, NJ. Večera začne o 7.00 hodine večer. Do tanca bude hrať skupina Kontakty. Vstupné je \$35.00. V cene je zahrnutá večera. Rezervácie vstupeniek: Ján Dračulín, tel. č. 908-541-0372 a Mary Krach, tel. č. 732-572-2331.

Slovenský deň v Slovenskej záhrade vo Winter Park, FL

V sobotu 1. marca sa uskutoční 62. Slovenský deň v Slovenskej záhrade, 3110 Howel Branch Road vo Winter Park, FL. Začiatok bude o 12.00 hodine naobed. Obed bude podávaný o 1.00 hodine a kultúrny program začne o 3.00 hod. Do tanca bude hrať skupina Europa Band. Vstupné je \$30.00. Bližšie informácie a rezervácie: 407-677-6894, email:slovakgarden@centurylink.net.

V nedeľu 2. marca bude ročná schôdza vedenia Slovenskej záhrady. Slovenská sv. omša, ktorú bude celebrowať Fr. Jozef Kajňák, začne o 11.00 hodine, registrácia bude o 12.00 hod., obed o 1.00 hod. a schôdza začne o 2.00 hodine.

Prednáška o 1. SR v Chicagu 9. marca

V nedeľu 9. marca t.r. bude mať v Chicagu prednášku Ivan Králik o histórii 1. Slovenskej republiky. Prednášku doplní historickými dokumentami a autentickými zábermi z obdobia 1. Slovenskej republiky. Podujatie sa bude konať v starej školskej hale nad kostolom sv. Šimona, 5157 SO California Ave. O 10.30 bude sv. omša, po ktorej bude tradičné občerstvenie a o 12.45 hod. sa začne prednáška, na ktorú je pozvaná slovenská verejnosť. Téma prednášky je Poznajme Pravdu o 1. Slovenskej republike. - Rev. Kristián Libant, CM.

1. ŽUPA S.K.S. VÁS POZÝVA

V nedeľu 2. marca bude v Garden Palace Bowling Lines, 42 Lakeview Ave., Clifton, NJ. kolkárske popoludnie pre deti. Trvať bude od 2.00 do 4.00 hod. Vstupné je bezplatné. Podávaná bude pizza a občerstvenie. Bližšie informácie a rezervácie: Eric Topczij, tel. č.: 973-985.0134.

1. župa usporiada v nedeľu 9. marca o 4.00 hodine popoludní v kostolnej hale večeru - Spaghetti Dinner. Vstupné je \$7.00 za dospelých, \$6.00 za dôchodcov a za deti vo veku od 6 do 12 rokov je vstupné \$4.00. Deti do 6 rokov majú vstup bezplatný. Bližšie informácie a rezervácie vstupeniek: Peter Walentowicz, tel.č.: 973- 432-8841.

Ping-pongový turnaj v Cliftone, NJ

V nedeľu 16. marca o 2.00 hodine poobede sa uskutoční turnaj v ping-pongu, ktorý organizuje slovenský spolok Domovina pri kostole Sv. Cyrila a Metoda, 235 Ackerman Avenue, Clifton, NJ. Startovné je \$10.00. V cene je započítané malé občerstvenie.

Zaujímavosť sa môžu prihlásiť u Jozefa Ofčanského, tel. č. 862-686-1223, alebo Mareka Homolu, tel. č. 862-703-6220, e-mail: zpa-presov@aim.com.

Informácie slovenských podujatiach v USA na internete

Informácie o slovenských spoločenských, náboženských a športových podujatiach, video záznamy zo slovenských podujatí a ďalšie informácie nájdete na internetovej adrese: www.slovaknewstv.com


 Za Boha a Národ For God and Nation
Slovenský Katolícky Sokol
 Slovak Catholic Sokol

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CNN odporúča Piešťany

Americká spravodajská stanica CNN v cestovateľskej sekcii na svojej internetovej stránke zverejnila článok s rebričkom deviatich najlepších dovolenkových destinácií pre záujemcov o chudnutie. Medzi nimi sa na siedmom mieste umiestnil aj kúpeľný hotel v Piešťanoch. Editori osobitne vyzdvihli secesný hotel Thermania Palace v Piešťanoch a jeho vyše storočnú históriu, počas ktorej doň smerovali za liečivým sirmym bahnom a termálnymi prameňmi "králi, šejkovia a cári".

Zdravotnícky personál sa podľa CNN sústreďuje na poskytovanie wellness služieb i programov na chudnutie "s cieľom stať sa opäť raz elitnými liečebnými kúpeľmi v Európe".

V článku autori citujú riaditeľa piešťanských kúpeľov Klausu Pilza, ktorý vyzdvihol zdravotnú účinnosť liečebných programov s tým, že sa vyše 50 percent hostí vracia do Piešťan aspoň raz za rok.

Na prvom mieste rebrička sa nachádza rekreačné zariadenie v Malibu v Spojených štátoch, druhý sa umiestnil ozdravný dovolenkový rezort pri Gardskom jazere v Taliansku.

Za tri a pol roka prišlo o slovenské občianstvo 722 ľudí

(Pokračovanie zo str. 20)
viaceré pokusy o zjemnenie tejto právnej normy, avšak ani jeden z nich nebol úspešný.

V súčasnosti sa zmiernením zákona zaoberá ministerstvo vnútra. Do medzirezortného pripomienkového konania by sa mala dostať opravená novela v prvom polroku tohto roka.

Minister vnútra Robert Kaliňák avizoval, že podľa novely by ľudia, ktorí stratili slovenské občianstvo prijatím občianstva iného štátu, mohli slovenský pas získať späť.

Súčasná právna norma je momentálne na Ústavnom súde. Skupina poslancov Národnej rady, ktorú vedie Gábor Gál (Most), namieta, že ustanovenie zákona hovoriace o strate štátneho občianstva tým, že občan prijme štátne občianstvo iného štátu, je v rozpore s Ústavou. Ústavný súd o tom stále nerozhodol. - *tas*

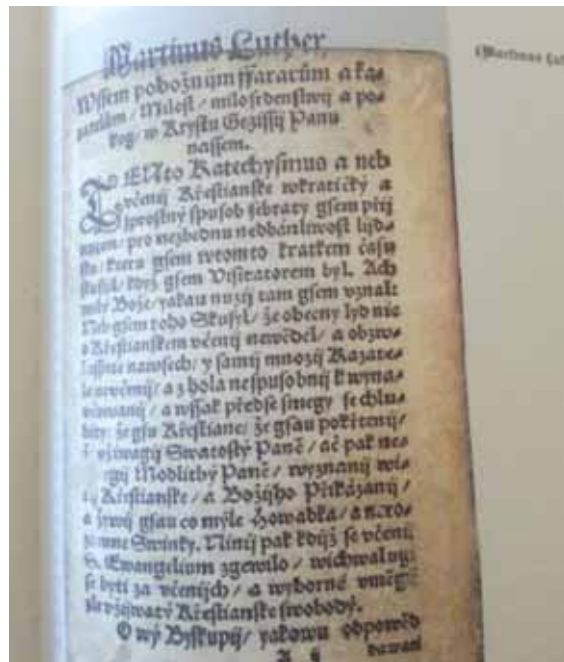
Ach, tá naša slovenčina....

Nové predajne chcu' fast foody na stanicach či v školach.
- *Sme.sk*

Víte, že....

...v auguste tohto roku bude päť piatkov, päť sobôt a päť nediel? Tento jav sa vyskytuje len raz za 823 rokov.

Najstaršia slovenská tlačena kniha má 433 rokov



Najstaršou slovenskou tlačenu knihou je Bardejovský katechizmus z roku 1581.

Originál 433-ročnej knihy vytlačil významný tlačiar Dávid Gutgesell v Bardejove. Preto sa katechizmus, napísaný v slovakizovanej češtine, nazýva bardejovský.

Bardejovský katechizmus bol v 16. storočí čítankou, z ktorej sa učili čítať nielen deti, ale aj do-

speli. Zachoval sa však iba jediný výtlačok, takže ho starostlivo opatrujú v trezore Slovenskej národnej knižnice v Martine. Odtiaľ ho dokonca vyberajú len príležitostne.

Keďže originál je poškodený, odborníci urobili teraz jeho presnú kópiu. Nová kniha je výsledkom päťročnej práce vedcov a reštaurátorov. Kópia je dokonca rozsiahlejšia ako originál.

Ako bude vyzerat' Starý Most v Bratislave po rekonstrukcii

Starý Most v Bratislave začalo mesto rekonštruovať koncom minulého roka. Prestavba Starého mosta je spolu s vybudovaním električkovej trate zo Šafárikovho námestia po Bosákovej ulici súčasťou prvej etapy budovania Nosného dopravného systému v Bratislave.

Most pre verejnosť uzavreli 2. decembra 2013 a začali skladat' starú konštrukciu.

Novú konštrukciu plánujú stavať na jar na petržalskom brehu Dunaja a odtiaľ ho potom

budú vysúvať ponad koryto Dunaja.

Projekt bude stáť 58,8 milióna eur. Mesto na projekt požiadalo o nenávratný finančný príspevok. Na financovanie projektu sa bude z 85 percent podieľať Európska únia, desať percent príspeje štát a päť percent zaplatí mesto. Jednou z podmienok na čerpanie nenávratného príspevku je, že Starý most i električková trať Šafárikova námestie - Bosákova musia byť hotové do konca roka 2015.



Vizualizácia plánovanej podoby Starého mosta v Bratislave.

Autor: www.bratislava.sk



Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

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VOLUME CIII

PASSAIC, N.J., 26. FEBRUÁRA, 2014

ČÍSLO 5011

Spomienka na Jozefa Murgaša

O nás Slovákov sa všeobecne hovorí, ako o národe s malým vlasteneckým cítením a ešte menším sebavedomím. Možno aj preto sme stáročia nemali svoj vlastný štát a boli sme v silnom područí. Napriek tomu sa nestratili a vo svete sme sa dokázali vždy presadiť.

Slováci to dokázali možno práve svojou skromnosťou, pracovitnosťou a húževnatosťou, talentom, umom a vzdelanosťou. Je našou povinnosťou, aby sme si osobnosti, ktoré to dokázali, pripomínali a predkladali ich výnimočnosť verejnosti, hlavne mladej generácii, ktorej aj tieto informácie môžu pomáhať pri získavaní sebavedomia a hrdosti na svoju identitu.

V týchto dňoch si pripomíname 150. výročie narodenia svetového vynálezcu Jozefa Murgaša (17. februára 1864). Už v čase absolvovania základnej školy v rodnej obci a gymnázia v Banskej Bystrici ho zaujalo maliarstvo a v rokoch 1889 - 1890 ho študoval v Budapešti. Ďalšie štyri roky pokračoval v štúdiu v Mníchove. O elektrotechniku sa začal zaujímať na štúdiách v Os-

trihome. Rodina Murgašovcov dlho čakala na narodenie svojho dieťaťa, a preto Murgašova mama na znak vďaky pri kríži slúbila, že jej syn pôjde za kňaza. Keď mal Jozef 24 rokov, vysvätil ho za kňaza. V roku 1896 odišiel do novozaloženej baníckej obce Wilkes-Barre, Pa., kde žilo 300 slovenských rodín, ktoré potrebovali kňaza.

Tu sa Murgaš začal hlbšie zaujímať o elektrotechniku. Už v roku 1903 podal vo Washingtone svoj prvý patent a o rok neskôr mu federálny úrad uznal patenty dva. Vynášiel zariadenie na bezdrôtovú telegrafiu a ako druhý spôsob prenášania správ bezdrôtovou telegrafiou. Na základe týchto patentov vznikla vo Philadelphii účasťinná spoločnosť Universal Aethur Telegraph co., ktorá produkovala ďalšie patenty. Vlhkomer (1907), elektrický transformátor (1907), zariadenie na výrobu elektromagnetických vln (1909), prístroj na výrobu elektrických oscilácií (1911), navijak na rybársky prút (1912), spôsob na výrobu elektrických oscilácií (1916).

V rámci bezdrôtového prenosu sa mu vôbec prvý raz podarilo v roku 1905 rádiové spojenie, ktoré medzi obcami Scranton a Wilkes-Barre vzdialených od seba 30 km umožnilo rozhovor

ich starostov, ktorí to písomne potvrdili.

V čase prvej svetovej vojny sa Murgaš angažoval pri vytvorení spoločného štátu Čechov a Slovákov. Bol jedným zo signatárov Pittsburskej dohody. Mal blízko aj k Milanovi Rastislavovi Štefánikovi. Medzi americkými Slovákami zorganizoval zbierku jedného milióna dolárov - základný valutový fond ČSR. V roku 1920 sa Murgaš vrátil na Slovensko a mal záujem usadiť sa a vyučovať elektrotechniku. No úrady mu to neumožnili, a tak sa vrátil späť do USA. Zomrel 11. mája 1929 vo Wilkes-Barre.

Vynálezcu bezdrôtovej telegrafie ocenil aj americký prezident Theodore Roosevelt a vážil si ho aj sám Thomas Alva Edison. Jozef Murgaš dal svetu bezdrôtovú komunikáciu, nebyť jeho vynálezov, svet by nepoznal internet, možnosti dnešných mobilov a iných komunikačných kanálov. Preto môžeme byť právom hrdí. - *Daniël Zemančík*

Za tri a pol roka prišlo o slovenské občianstvo 722 ľudí

Zákon o štátnom občianstve pripravil za tri a pol roka (od 17. júla 2010 do 14. februára 2014) o slovenský pas 722 ľudí, z toho 310 mužov a 412 žien. Najviac z nich (289) stratilo slovenské občianstvo pre prijatie českého, vyplýva to zo štatistik Ministerstva vnútra SR.

Slovenský pas strácajú ľudia na základe zákona o štátnom občianstve, ktorý prijala prvá vláda Roberta Fica. Niekdajší kabinet reagoval právnou normou v roku 2010 na maďarský zákon, ktorý od roku 2011 zjednodušuje udeľovanie dvojakeho občianstva zahraničným Maďarom.

Na základe súčasného zákona prichádzajú o slovenský pas tí, ktorí prijali občianstvo iného štátu.

Od prijatia zákona sa objavili

(Pokračovanie na str. 19)

Krátke správy zo Slovenska



❖ Ortológovia upozorňujú na rapidný úbytok vtáctva v mestách a v lesoch na Slovensku. Miznú vrabce, lastovičky, vrany, slávici a ďalšie druhy vtákov. Z kedysi početnej populácie sokola kobcovitého hniezdi na Slovensku už len jediný posledný pár.

❖ Dokument 38 - film o slovenskom zosnulom hokejistovi Pavlovi Dimitrovi bude mať v slovenských kinách premiéru 10. apríla. Číslo 38 nosil Dimitra na svojom drese od roku 1996. Demitra zahynul 7. septembra 2011 vo veku 36 rokov pri páde lietadla v Rusku. Pri tragédii zahynulo 43 členov hokejového klubu Lokomotiv.

❖ Miera evidovanej nezamestnanosti na Slovensku dosiahla v januári tohto roku 13,61 percenta. V porovnaní s decembrom minulého roku vzrástla o 0,11 percenta.

❖ Najhoršia zimná sezóna za 16 rokov. Takú zlú sezónu si prevádzkovatelia lyžiarskych stredísk už takmer ani nepamätajú. Teplé počasie sťažovali aj umelé zasnežovanie na slovenských

horách. Lyžiarske strediská znamenali najmenej tretinový pokles lyžiarov v porovnaní s minulým rokom.

❖ Podľa meraní ovzdušia v Európe z roku 2011 je spomedzi európskych krajín najhoršie na tom Bulharsko. Na druhom mieste sa umiestnilo Poľsko, na treťom Slovensko. Štvrtú priečku v meraní obsadilo Maďarsko a za ním nasleduje Česká republika na piatom mieste. O výsledkoch meraní 20. februára informoval Miroslav Šuta z Centra pre životné prostredie a zdravie v Českej republike na dvojdnovej medzinárodnej konferencii, ktorá sa konala v Bratislave.

❖ 24. februára spadol z 10-metrovej výšky 47-ročný robotník, ktorý pracoval na rozoberaní bratislavského Starého mosta. Muž spadol na loď kotviacu pod mostom a utrpel viaceré poranenia a vo vážnom stave ho previezli do nemocnice na Kramároch. Na mieste zasahovalo deväť hasičov s dvoma kusmi hasičskej techniky, ktorí pacienta transportovali z pontónu na breh.

Amazon zvažuje otvoriť distribučné centrum v Malackách

Je čoraz pravdepodobnejšie, že najväčší internetový obchod na svete Amazon otvorí svoje distribučné centrum pri Malackách.

Mestské zastupiteľstvo v Brne totiž v piatok po sedemhodinovej debате neschválilo podmienky, za akých by americký Amazon mohol svoj sklad postaviť tam. A alternatívou pre juhomoravské mesto sú práve Malacky.

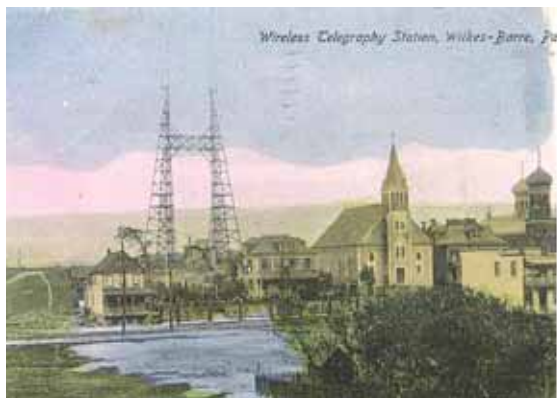
Brnianski poslanci sa nevedia zhodnúť na tom, za akých podmienok predajú developerovi pôdu za 214 miliónov korún, na ktorej majú sklady pre Amazon vyrásť.

Miestni politici totiž začali predaj podmieňovať tým, aby Amazon prispel na výstav-

bu diaľničného privádzača. Američania súhlasili so sumou 56 miliónov korún, no niektorí poslanci by chceli viac.

Manažér firmy CTP Tomáš Budař zdôrazňuje, že napojenie na diaľnicu nežiada Amazon, ale Brno. „Privádzač totiž nie je nevyhnutnou súčasťou projektu, distribučné centrum by vedelo fungovať aj bez neho,“ povedal SME.

Americká firma nežiada od Čiech ani úľavy na daniach či dotácie za nové pracovné miesta. Tých má v centre vzniknúť dvatisíc, ďalších štyritisíc ľudí si môže Amazon prenajímať počas sezóny. Celkovo má vybudovanie skladov s rozlohou asi 124-tisíc štvorcových metrov vyjsť na 100 miliónov eur.



Veža bezdrôtového vysielania, ktorú používal Rev. Jozef Murgaš vo Wilkes-Barre, Pa.