



*Za Boha a národ*

*For God and Nation*

# Slovak Catholic Falcon

*SLOVENSKÝ KATOLÍCKY SOKOL*

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## GROUP 4 TAKES HOME CHAMPIONSHIP FLAG AT 49<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL SLET



Group 4, "Bishop Stefan Moyzes" of Chicago, IL took home the Championship Flag at our 49<sup>th</sup> International Slet held at the State University of New York - SUNY at Brockport, N.Y., July 17-21. The Group 4 team was made up of Sokols and Sokolky belonging to Wreath 93 in Milwaukee, WI.

The Group 4 win was only the third in our organization's history. Group 4 first took home the Championship Flag at the 14<sup>th</sup> Slet held in Canton, OH in 1948. They repeated their fete at the 15<sup>th</sup> Slet held in Wilkes-Barre, PA in 1950. Group 4 last took home the Championship Flag at the 16<sup>th</sup> Slet held in Youngstown, OH in 1953. Group 4 has actively promoted the gymnastic and athletic traditions of our organization since its founding in 1911 at Chicago's oldest Slovak parish of St. Michael the Archangel. Over the years, Group 4 has given our organization many outstanding leaders who have served as Supreme Officers and members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board.

Congratulations to our Group 4 athletes on their fourth International Slet championship in the 107-year history of Slet competition which began in 1912.

## SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL 33<sup>RD</sup> QUADRENNIAL CONVENTION



## Message from our Supreme President

Michael J. Horvath

I am writing my August article as I am preparing for the Slovak Catholic Sokol 33<sup>rd</sup> Quadrennial Convention



which was held August 3 - 7, 2019 at the Airport Marriott in Cleveland, Ohio.

Congratulate to our Supreme Secretary Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and his wife Maggie on the birth of their son Cole William. They

are now blessed with two sons, big brother Reid and now Cole. May God bless this Sokol family and give them a life of good health and never ending happiness.

As I mentioned before a lot of work over the period of two years goes into organizing the Convention so that everything is ready for the delegates when they arrive. The delegates expect the Convention to be organized properly to conduct the Convention business and be able to enjoy the activities arranged and explore the City of Cleveland, Ohio.

Your Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. and I with the help of the members of Group 5 have do all we can to assure a smooth and efficient Convention and activities for the delegates to enjoy. Thank you Brother Scott and members of Group 5!

The 49<sup>th</sup> Slovak Catholic Sokol Slet is in the history books. It will go down as one of the best Slets since a couple of new things that were used to make it run easier and for all members to see the events and activities. At the 49th Slet electronic timing devices were used to time and record each race. Gone are the days of stop watches, the timers then give the times to the official to record and then the figuring out the places. Now all of this is done in real time. The best use of the electronic/ digital age for was for our ability to live stream over Facebook the track and field, gymnastics, drilling competition, closing ceremonies and the dance for all members to

see and enjoy. I hope all who viewed the Slet via Facebook enjoyed what they saw. For those who did not see the live stream you can still enjoy the Slet by going to the Slovak Catholic Sokol Facebook site and bring up the sessions.

I want to thank our Supreme Chaplain, Father Andrew S. Hvozdivic for not only saying the opening and closing Mass but also for his service as the first streaming videographer. His talents made the streaming possible.

I want to thank all the participants from every Group, from the 8 to 50 +year old, the first time participants to those attending for the past 3 decades or longer who competed at the SLET and congratulate all those who won their events. All of you make the Slet our premier fraternal activity, worth it and a success.

Even Mother Nature tried to stop us with heat and rain, however, the Slovak Catholic Sokol spirit was to strong for her to ruin our successful fraternal event.

Our Supreme Physical Fitness Board did an outstanding job to run this biennial event for us and we all should say, Thank you!

It is hard to believe that in two years the Slovak Catholic Sokol will be holding its 50th Slet, a milestone only we can be proud of. I hope you will start planning now so there is a huge turnout of old Slet participants and new participant who will keep our premier event going for another 50.

Our 64<sup>th</sup> International Golf Tournament will be this weekend August 16-17 at the Seven Oaks Country Club and Black Hawk Golf course in Beaver Falls, PA. All is ready for this very competitive event that is supporter by many of our members. I wish everyone who are attended and great Sokol time and those who are golfing, a one under par on every hole. Enjoy!

With God's Blessings to All!  
Zdar Boh!

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## MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL – JUNE 29, 2019

### FIRST SESSION

**Saturday, June 29, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.**

Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, **Called to Order** the Quarterly Meeting of the Supreme Board of Directors at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 29, 2019 and greeted all the members of the Board on the call.

Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, offered the **Opening Prayer**.

Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak, led the Board members in reciting the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**.

Supreme Secretary, Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C. was asked to take the **Roll Call** and the following members responded:

Supreme Chaplain ..... Rev. Andrew S. HvozdoVIC, V.F.(Excused)  
 Supreme President ..... Michael J. Horvath  
 Supreme Vice-President ..... Edward D. Moeller  
 Supreme Secretary ..... Scott T. Pogorelec, F.I.C.  
 Supreme Treasurer ..... Dennis J. Zifcak  
 General Counsel ..... John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.  
 Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors ..... James G. Jerek  
 Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics ..... James C. Matlon  
 Supreme Physical Director ..... John M. Underation  
 Supreme Physical Directress ..... Kathleen S. Watkins

The record will show that nine members of the Board of Directors are on the Conference Call, with one excused.

Acknowledged

President Horvath informed the Board that they all have received the **Minutes** from our last Board meeting held on March 22-23, 2019 in Cleveland, OH and published in the May 15, 2019 issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon. Brother President entertained a motion for their acceptance, so moved by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.

Approved

President Horvath then called upon our Director of Sales and Marketing, Albert J. Suess, F.I.C., to give a brief overview of the **Membership/Sales and Marketing Report**.

Brother Suess gave a snapshot of the current life and annuity production for the year as compared to the 2019 projections. Life sales has exceeded projections thus far, but annuity production is down. Brother Albert recommended a number of items to the Board in regards to our annuity rates and marketing strategy that will be taken under advisement.

Brother Suess then informed the Board on the upcoming Agent Sales Campaign and our current membership WIN-WIN Campaign that concludes on July 31, 2019. The winners of the WIN-WIN Campaign will be announced at our 33<sup>rd</sup> Quadrennial Convention.

Several questions were presented and addressed to the satisfaction of the Board and President Horvath thanked Brother Suess for the report. President Horvath then asked for a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Physical Directress, Kathleen S. Watkins, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.

Approved

President Horvath thanked Brother Albert and called upon Mr. Thomas Calimano, Market Director/Senior Vice-President, and Ms. Cynthia Cole, Portfolio Manager, of PNC Institutional Asset Management.

Mr. Calimano and Ms. Cole reviewed PNC's outlook for the financial markets and the economy with the Board. Additionally, they reviewed the investment strategies recently implemented in both the equity and fixed income portfolios.

Mr. Calimano and Ms. Cole addressed various questions from the Board concerning our performance outlook and they indicated the Society is in a strong financial position, especially in this volatile fiscal environment. The Board members expressed thanks and President Horvath entertained a motion to accept the report, so moved by Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq.

Approved

President Horvath then called on the Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, for the **Physical Fitness Board Report**.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol held their 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Bowling Tournament in conjunction with the Greek Catholic Union and the First Catholic Slovak Union on May 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh, PA with 165 bowlers. The Slovak Catholic Sokol had a total of 80 Bowlers in attendance. A wonderful time was had by all. A special congratulations to Clarence "Buffalo" Checton on being selected as the Frank Petruff Award Recipient. The bowling pictures and results are posted on our web site and the prize winners were published in the *Falcon*.

Sister Watkins and Brother Underation updated the Board regarding the 49<sup>th</sup> International Slet which will be held at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, NY from July 17<sup>th</sup>-July 21<sup>st</sup>.

The 2019 Golf Tournament will be held at Seven Oaks Country Club and Black Hawk Golf Course from August 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Greek Catholic Union. We expect to have over 130 Golfers.

President Horvath thanked Brother Matlon, Brother Underation, and Sister Watkins for their report and entertained a motion to accept the report. So moved by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, and seconded by Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak.

Approved

Brother President then called upon General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. for the **Legal Department Report**.

Brother John updated the Board on the Association of Fraternal Benefit Counsel Annual Meeting that he attended which discussed many of the challenges Fraternals face today.

Brother Counsel also verified the property taxes and insurance are all paid to date on the three existing mortgages on file.

After a brief discussion, President Horvath entertained a motion to approve the report, so moved by Supreme Director of Sports and Athletics, James C. Matlon, and seconded by Supreme Physical Directress, Kathleen S. Watkins.

Approved

President Horvath thanked the General Counsel and called upon Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, Edward D. Moeller, for the **Scholarship Committee Report**.

Brother Moeller reported that the committee met on Saturday, May 11, 2019 via conference call, and made their selections.

The winner's photos appeared in the June 19, 2019 is-

(Continued on page 5)

## 42<sup>ND</sup> SLOVAK HERITAGE FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 22

All is in readiness for this year's exciting 42<sup>nd</sup> annual New York-New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival scheduled for Sunday, September 22. This year's event will once again be held at the scenic and spacious Middlesex County Fairgrounds, located at 655 Cranbury Road in East Brunswick, N.J.



Festivities begin with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in the Byzantine Rite at 10 a.m. Principal celebrant and homilist at the liturgy will be the Rev. Martin Vavrak of South Amboy, N.J. The Slovak School of Queens, N.Y. and Limboracik will each present their program beginning at 11:30 a.m. At 1:30 p.m. Children from the Lipka Slovak Academy of Holy Family Parish in Linden, N.J. and the Domovinka Ensemble from SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Clifton, N.J. will present a colorful and entertaining program "Od detstva k svabe" (From childhood to the wedding). At 2:30 p.m. the ever-popular Limbora Slovak Ensemble will present their celebration of Slovak music and dance. At 3:15 p.m. the gypsy ensemble from Slovakia "Ciganski Diabli" will perform and finally beginning at 4:30 p.m. the comic from Slovakia - Drislak will entertain.

In addition, traditional Slovak culinary specialties along with American picnic favorites will be available throughout the day. An extensive display area will be featured along with many imported items from Slovakia available for sale. An enjoyable opportunity to celebrate Slovak culture and heritage at one of the largest Slovak festivals in the U.S. awaits all festivalgoers. Sokols and Sokolky have been a part of this celebration from its beginnings.

## 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SLOVAK FESTIVAL Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish 41233 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI

**August 23: 6:00-11:00 P.M.**

**August 24: 1:00-11:00 P.M.**

**August 25: 12:00-9:00 P.M.**

**FREE ADMISSION –FREE PARKING**

**Friday, August 23: Family Night** Talent show, live music  
Slovak and American food

**Saturday & Sunday – August 24 & August 25**

Slovak Folk Performers, Live Music  
Slovak and American food  
children's area – game tent,  
rock climbing wall and more

Parish Raffle (\$5,000 top prize)  
50/50 Raffle

**Slovak Mass at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday**  
celebrated by Bishop  
Jozef Halko from Slovakia

E-mail: parishoffice@saintcyrls.org  
Phone: (586) 726-6911

Thoughts from our Supreme Chaplain,  
Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdo vic

## FRIENDSHIP

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of friends in my life...

Thank you for the friends I've had for years and years and years: may they be friends for many years yet to come...

Thank you for friends I've just made: I'm grateful that I'm never too old to make new friends...

Thank you for friends I seldom see but love in my heart of hearts nonetheless: what a gift are friends whose love is never limited by geography, change or time...

Thank you for friendships which have faded: remind me of how important they once were and keep me open to their return...

Thank you for all the gifts that friendship brings, Lord: security, companionship, joy, support, intimacy, trust, serenity, encouragement, good will, solidarity, understanding company, harmony and empathy...

Most of all, I thank you for your friendship, Lord: you, my best friend, you, my most faithful companion, you, my partner and soul mate... you, my brother, my savior, my redeemer, my love...

Amen.



## SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL DISCOUNT PROGRAM

As a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, you now have access to hundreds of travel and entertainment discounts. Just become a member of Tickets At Work to access your discounts.

Tickets At Work is pleased to offer entertainment and travel discounts for both regional and nationwide attractions and events to all Slovak Catholic Sokol members. These discounts are not available to the general public and are exclusive to the Tickets At Work Corporate Discount Program. Be sure to visit often as new products and discounts are constantly being added!!

How to Get Started:

1. Go to <http://www.ticketsatwork.com>
2. Click on "Become a Member"
3. You will then be prompted to create an account with your email address & company code. **COMPANY CODE IS: CPSCS**

Once enrolled, you will have access to all the discounts nationwide. If you do not have internet access, you can call customer service at the toll free number 1-800-331-6483, and use the Slovak Catholic Sokol code CPSCS. Customer Service is available 7 days a week.

See the TicketsAtWork.com website for details and restrictions. If you have any questions, contact Supreme Physical Directress Kathleen Watkins at [kathyw323@gmail.com](mailto:kathyw323@gmail.com) or 412-225-8233.

## SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON PUBLICATION DATES

### PUBLICATION DATE

### ARTICLE DEADLINE

September 18, 2019

September 9, 2019

October 16, 2019

October 7, 2019

November 13, 2019

November 4, 2019

December 18, 2019

December 9, 2019



## GRADE SCHOOL

Dear members of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Committee,

I want to thank you for selecting me as one of the recipients of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Grade School Grant.

I feel very fortunate to be able to attend a Catholic Grammar School. Being a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol makes me very proud and honored. Thank you again for your generous support.

Zdar Boh!  
Rebecca Hess  
Cedar Grove, NJ

Dear Mr. Pogorelec,

I am writing to thank you for the generous scholarship. I am very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as one of the recipients of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Grade School Grant. I am going into 4<sup>th</sup> grade at All Saints Catholic School in Cresson, PA. Thank you again

and I promise you that I will work very hard during the 2019-2020 school year.

Sincerely,  
Patrick Phillips  
Lilly, PA

Members of Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for selecting my daughter Clair for the 2019-2020 Slovak Catholic Sokol Grade School Grant. We have received our grant and with her brother starting his Catholic High School it is greatly appreciated. Thank you again for selecting her.

C. SKabich  
Clifton, NJ

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Committee,

I am honored to be one of recipients of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Grade School Grants.

I am currently going into 6<sup>th</sup> grade at All Saints Catholic School in Cresson, PA. I play basketball for the All Saints Knights, I belong to the Explorers Club and plan to join the spelling bee competition this year.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I promise you that I will work very hard this school year.

Sincerely,  
Joseph Phillips  
Lilly, PA

Thank you for the generous grant of \$250.00. I greatly appreciate the grant which will be used for my tuition.

Thank you,  
Nathaniel Mikula  
Johnstown, PA

## HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Mr. Pogorelec and Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Committee,

Thank you very much for selecting me to receive the scholarship award. My family and I are really appreciative of your choice, as it encourages me to work harder in my academic studies.

Sincerely,  
Joshua Beblar  
Johnstown, PA

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol,

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to further my education. Your Generous gift is greatly appreciated. I will continue my education at Holy Redeemer High School, as well as my Catholic education. Thank you again for thinking about me.

Sincerely,  
Hunter Wesolowski  
Port Griffith, PA

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## MINUTES OF THE SUPREME BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING

(Continued from page 3)

sue of the *Falcon* publication. Checks will be mailed out from the Home Office in July to the applicants who were selected for a grant.

Thank-you letters acknowledging individual selections have been received at the Home Office and Brother Moeller, as in the past, has forwarded the "essay quotes" received from the winners to be included in the *Falcon* publication.

Several recommendations were presented from Brother Moeller and the Board agreed with them which would improve the application process. The website will be updated accordingly and the applications will become available in November of 2019.

President Horvath called for a motion to accept the report submitted by Brother Moeller, so moved by Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak, and seconded by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek. Approved

The Supreme President questioned the Board members regarding the **S.C.S. Annuity Interest Rates** to be offered for the third quarter of 2019.

The Board members had a lively discussion regarding the Annuity Interest Rate, taking into consideration our investment portfolio and the recommendations of our Director of Sales and

Marketing. Supreme Treasurer, Dennis J. Zifcak, made a motion to accept Brother Suess' recommendations, while also keeping the current rates as is, seconded by General Counsel, John D. Pogorelec, Jr., Esq. Approved

President Horvath questioned if there was any **Unfinished Business** to address.

A discussion ensued regarding the timing of the *Falcon* publication. It was decided by the Board that the *Falcon* will be published at the beginning of the month, rather than in the middle.

Acknowledged

Having completed all the business on the agenda, Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, entertained a **motion to adjourn**, so moved by Supreme Vice-President, Edward D. Moeller, seconded by Chairperson of the Supreme Auditors, James G. Jerek. Approved

Supreme President, Michael J. Horvath, offered the **Closing Prayer** for all those in need as well as for all the ill and deceased members of the Organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully Submitted,  
**Scott T. Pogorelec F.I.C.**  
Supreme Secretary

## SOKOL CALENDAR



### SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

■ **ANNUAL SOKOL FAMILY DAY PICNIC** hosted by Assembly 34 and Wreath 47 on the grounds of SS. Cyril and Methodius School grounds, 1315 2nd Street, N.E., Minneapolis, Minn. from 1-4 p.m., games for children, food and refreshments for members; for additional information, call James T. Genosky at tel. 763 789-9196.

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

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

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

■ **42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SLOVAK HERITAGE FESTIVAL** at the Middlesex County Fairgrounds, 655 Cranbury Rd., East Brunswick, N.J. beginning with Slovak Mass at 10 a.m., stage program at 11.30 a.m., music, dancing and refreshments until 6 p.m.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

■ **84<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SOKOL DAY** hosted by Group 7, "Rev. Joseph Murgas" at Plains Lions Pavilion, Stark St., Plains, Pa. 12 noon to 6 p.m. for information contact Amy Blasco at tel. 570 574-0136 or visit Facebook page "Group 7 Slovak

Catholic Sokol."

■ **SEPTEMBERFEST** hosted by the National Slovak Society at their home office 351 Valley Brook Rd., McMurray, Pa. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. free admission.

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 7

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

■ **SLOVAK HERITAGE PROGRAM** hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association at Mount Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Mt. Lebanon, Pa. beginning

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In observance of the Labor Day holiday, the Home Office will be closed on Monday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Home Office will reopen for business on Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Regular Home Office business hours are Monday-Thursday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Introducing our newest member



Ellianna Mae Grossman, born April 10, 2019, is the daughter of John and Alicia Molter Grossman of North Canton, Oh. She was enrolled as a member of Assembly 108 in Youngstown, Oh.

## ANNOUNCING NEW SOKOL APPAREL



HOODIES, T-SHIRTS AND GOLF SHIRTS are now available on line. Order yours today by simply going to our website

[slovakcatholicsokol.org](http://slovakcatholicsokol.org)

and selecting the link

"New Sokol Wear".

Clothing items will be shipped directly to your door!

## OUR NEXT ISSUE

In keeping with our monthly publishing schedule of the Slovak Catholic Falcon, the next issue will be that of **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**.



The Vychodna Slovak Dancers is a Slovak folklore ensemble, originally established in Toronto in 1984, whose main purpose is to promote and preserve Slovakia's rich culture and heritage. In October 2019 they will be celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



## KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - July 2019

# Where did Labor Day come from?

Labor Day was created as a way to acknowledge and pay tribute to the workforce for all that they have done to make our country prosperous and strong.

The first Labor Day was celebrated in New York City, and other cities followed this example in the following years. It was in 1894 that Congress passed a law making the first Monday of September a legal holiday.

## Now that you know... have a great Labor Day!



## Word Search





See how many of these newspaper related words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- |              |            |              |              |
|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. LABOR     | 5. WORK    | 9. SUMMER    | 13. AMERICAN |
| 2. DAY       | 6. LONG    | 10. NATIONAL | 14. MONDAY   |
| 3. HOLIDAY   | 7. WEEKEND | 11. USA      | 15. DAY      |
| 4. SEPTEMBER | 8. ENDING  | 12. TRAVEL   | 16. OFF      |



# KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" -- July 2019

## SUMMER WORD SCRAMBLE

BECHA        
9

EABABLLS        
14

CIE ECRAM        
16      2

NMGISWIM        
8      18

PCIICN        
4      13

NVCTIOAA        
11      17

SWURENOLF        
6



ROMEWATENL        
15      10      7

SCESNTDAAL        
5

HTAE        
1

BOIGATN        
12


POLO        
3

y  
1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18



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## KIDS' CORNER "Detský kútik" - July 2019

### ANNOUNCING THE KIDS' CORNER SUMMER READING PROGRAM!!!!

Just a reminder.....I will need the completed reading lists returned to me no later than September 14th. Include your name, address, Group number and age so that I can recognize you in the paper. Don't forget to highlight your favorite books on the list!!! and have fun reading!!!! Please send your completed reading lists to:

Edward D. Moeller-  
2821 Waterman Ave,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15227



If you prefer to do it on-line you can e-mail it to me:  
[vp@slovakcatholiccsokol.org](mailto:vp@slovakcatholiccsokol.org)

Keep reading and enjoy the rest of your summer!!

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!!!!!!

Addison DiMartino 8/2  
Michael Fesko 8/6  
Ian Dobbins 8/9  
Lauren Marie Bond 8/14  
Bryce Watkins 8/19  
Juliana Hoeck 8/20  
Sophia Mosotjak 8/26  
Amber Radtke 8/29



**The more that you read,  
the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn,  
the more places you'll go.**

**-- Dr. Seuss**

# SCENES FROM THE 49<sup>TH</sup> SLET – JULY 17-21, 2019 SUNY BROCKPORT, BROCKPORT, NY

## OPENING CEREMONY AND MASS



The new Sokol mascot — Sloboda (freedom). Winner of the name the mascot contest is Andy Lipovsky.



Group 5 girls and Group 4 boys winners of the junior team drill.



Volleyball champions – Group 4.



Game night with the juniors.

**What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland****News and Views  
from Slovakia...****BURNT KRASNA HORKA CASTLE  
TO BE FULLY RECONSTRUCTED IN 2023**

Krasna Horka Castle (Kosice region), which was heavily damaged by fire seven years ago, could be fully reconstructed and open for visitors in 2023.

The reconstruction project worth \$39 million, funded from the state budget, should be divided in several phases, which will allow making parts of the castle accessible to the public as of 2021.

The 14th-century castle will be reconstructed to its shape from 1903, before a series of modifications that altered its historical authenticity was initiated. It's expected that around 200,000 people per year could visit Krasna Horka Castle after its reconstruction.

The castle was damaged in March 2012 by fire that was allegedly caused by minors from a nearby Roma settlement who smoked cigarettes in dry grass on the castle hill.

**LUCIA DURIS NICHOLSONOVA BECOMES HEAD OF EP  
EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Slovak MEP Lucia Duris Nicholsonova (Freedom and Solidarity/SaS) of the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) faction was elected head of the EP Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) on Thursday. Thirty-eight of the 55 members of the committee voted in her favor, with 14 against and three abstentions.



Former Polish prime minister and MEP Beata Szydlova was originally nominated for the post, but she paid the price for the fact that liberal faction Renew Europe Group decided to boycott candidates for committee chairs and vice-chairs from populist parties and from countries towards which the EU has reservations due to infringements of the principles of the rule of law.

Duris Nicholsonova in her speech expressed thanks for this opportunity and stressed that she's willing to cooperate with all members of all factions constructively. She called on them to resolve their conflicts, if they have any, in the plenary of the EP and not within the committee.

Only two Slovak women have seats on the EP, but both have managed to secure prominent posts. Monika Benova of the

Socialists and Democrats (S&D) faction has become one of the questors of the EP.

Both Duris Nicholsonova and Benova have been elected for the first half of the current EP term, i.e. for two-and-a-half years, ending in January 2022.

**BRATISLAVA: PROPERTY DEMOLISHED IN MASS BRAWL**

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, dozens of Cracovia Krakow, Ajax Amsterdam and Bulgarian Levski Sofia football fans swarmed the streets of Venturska, an area around St. Michael's Tower, engaging in a mass brawl. The hooligans threw tables and chairs at each other and completely demolished the outdoor terraces of cafes and restaurants. Two explosions were even heard in the heart of Bratislava, sending passers-by fleeing for safety.

Police detained 107 individuals: 51 Bulgarians, 41 Poles and 15 Dutchmen. Several people suffered injuries during the fighting, with nine people admitted into hospital.

Four Dutchmen and three Poles who took part in fighting have been sentenced to six months in prison, after which they will be banned from entering Slovakia for three years.

The seven hooligans will now be placed in a minimum-security prison. They will be eligible to apply for parole after serving three months of their sentences.

**SLOVAKIA TO PRESIDE OVER WHO REGIONAL  
COMMITTEE FOR EUROPE IN 2024**

Slovakia will preside over the 74<sup>th</sup> session of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Regional Committee for Europe in 2024, according to a document submitted by the Health Ministry for interdepartmental review. It will be Slovakia's first WHO presidency.

The session prepares and adopts resolutions and decisions on the strategic direction and objectives of regional and global health policy. "Presiding over and hosting this event will confirm Slovakia's high international credit and the dynamic setting of co-operation between the Slovak Republic and the WHO. At the same time it offers Slovakia an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process in the health-care sector at a global level," reads the ministry's explanatory report.

The WHO Regional Committee for Europe is a regular autumn ministerial forum. It deals with health issues related to development goals stemming from the UN 2030 Agenda. Ministers and senior officials from 53 countries, as well as representatives of inter-governmental organizations and NGOs take part in it.

**TASR RELEASES 'HEIRLOOM' PHOTO SET  
OF SLOVAKIA'S WONDERS**

Slovakia's natural treasures, but also the work of human hands have been included in a unique photo set created by The News Agency of the Slovak Republic (TASR) entitled 'Heirloom'.

The series is also devoted to bird's eye views of towns, buildings and transport infrastructure. The series of 30 reports further includes photos of the wonders of nature, fields and pastures taken from the air.

The database of more than 200 photos contains, inter alia, views of roads, including those under construction, near Bratislava, Zilina and Nitra, as well as intriguing tourist locations, among them Morske oko [Sea's Eye] in the Vihorlat mountains in eastern Slo-

*Selected stories are provided by TASR  
– the Slovak Republic's official News Agency.*



The Starina water reservoir in north-eastern Slovakia.

(Photo by TASR/Michal Svítok)

vakia, the Sunny Lakes in Senec (Bratislava region), the National Stud Farm in Topolčianky (Nitra region) and the new Jaguar Land Rover plant in Nitra.

"We managed to take pictures of interesting locations where the borders of three countries – Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine – meet. Apart from Poloniny National Park, we also captured Starina water reservoir and Slovakia's easternmost village of Nova Sedlica. We even had to land for some moments, as taking photos in border areas is subject to special regulations, and it's necessary to have a flight permit," said TASR Photo Desk head Michal Svítok, who took the pictures.

The five-part series contains a total of 120 photoreports and almost 900 pictures taken from an ultra-light aircraft across Slovakia in September and October last year. Svítok and the pilot spent around 16 hours on board the Skyper GT9 aircraft.

### CAPUTOVA: CONDITION OF DISCIPLINARY JUDICIARY IS INSUFFICIENT

The condition of Slovakia's disciplinary judiciary is insufficient although it is one of the basic preconditions for an independent judiciary, said President Zuzana Caputova following her meeting with Supreme Court President Daniela Svecova on July 22.

Caputova finds a disciplinary judiciary to be important, as it should provide a space for drawing responsibility against judges in case they fail. "The judiciary can only work well, if a high level of independence functions in a high-quality accountability system and this should chiefly be ensured by a disciplinary judiciary," said the president. Svecova sees a big reserve in disciplinary courts as well. However, she pointed to the fact that supervision over them isn't in the Supreme Court's powers.

Svecova stated that trust in courts has increased during her term in office thanks to reduction of the time of court proceedings. While in 2014 the average duration of proceedings at the Supreme Court was 245 days, it was a mere 74 days in 2018. "We found out that we only can reduce the length of proceedings by increasing the number of assistants," she said. The number of assistants has tripled, from 30 to 90, during her tenure. "There's one assistant for each judge at the moment," stated Svecova, adding that material-technical equipment has also improved.

### SPECIALISED CRIMINAL COURT LAUNCHES PROCEEDINGS IN CASE OF TV PROMISSORY NOTES

A senate of the Specialised Criminal Court initiated on Monday proceedings in the case of the so-called television promissory notes and obstruction of justice against controversial entrepreneur

Marian K. and former general director of television channel Markiza Pavol R..

The proceedings are scheduled to last six days and in absence of Marian K..

"I'll defend myself as best I can," stated Pavol R. before entering the court room. The trial will be attended by lawyers of the defendants Marek Para and Michal Mandzak, lawyers of the injured party Daniel Lipsic and Tomas Kamenec, and dozens of journalists, photographers and cameramen.

Marian K. is being prosecuted in custody over the promissory notes worth almost 70 million on which he based a claim against Markiza. The private broadcaster has been challenging the authenticity of the notes since the beginning, filing criminal complaints against both Marian K. and Pavol R..

Furthermore, Marian K. has been charged with ordering the murder of journalist Jan Kuciak. Pavol R. is being prosecuted at large in this case as well as the case of ordering the murder of his former business associate Silvia Volzova, which did not actually happen.



The beginnings of rafting on the longest Slovak river date back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. The river Váh was the only convenient and safe route when northern Slovakia was becoming populated. For the rafters, the Streno valley represented an adventure and many unusual experiences. The valley, with its numerous meanders, invented or real obstacles, two castles, and the untouched nature of Malá Fatra, was a stretch of the river that they looked forward to but also respected. The rafts used to leave from Liptov and, after having passed the two rocks Margita and Besná, navigation went smoothly until the Danube and, afterwards, as far as the Black Sea. In the past, wooden rafts were the most important means for both goods and personal transport, but at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century they began slowly to be replaced by cheaper railway transport. Therefore, the thirties are considered to be the end of rafting on the Váh.

The landscapes in the area have obviously retained their beauty and magic, and since 1999 Prvá pltníčka a raftingová spoločnosť has been realizing the idea of making the most of the potential of the landscape to present it as a tourist attraction. The revival of traditional transport allows visitors to get to know the extraordinary number of cultural, historical, natural and technical curiosities that are all concentrated on this 4.5 miles stretch of the river. The rafters, dressed in traditional costumes, provide a professional commentary.

## HISTORY OF LABOR DAY

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed in 1885 and 1886. From these, a movement developed to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During 1887 four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

More than a century after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers.

Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those “who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold.”

But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1894 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a “workingmen's holiday” on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1895 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

### A NATIONWIDE HOLIDAY

Women's Auxiliary Typographical UnionThe form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take was outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public “the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations” of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change in recent years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem.

## 41<sup>st</sup> SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal of the Slovak Catholic Federation

The Saints Cyril and Methodius Appeal is in its 41st year raising funds to assist the Pontifical Slovak College of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Rome with its day to day operations. Today, the Appeal relies upon the generosity of individual donors in addition to collections taken up in personal parishes of Slovak ancestry.

As of June 30, \$25,149.73 has been received from 149 donors. On behalf of the Pontifical College, thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the 2019 Appeal but did not receive a letter in January asking for a donation is asked to fill out the information in the box at the bottom of this article and mailing it along with your check payable to the Slovak Catholic Federation to the address provided. Donations in any amount are deeply appreciated and are acknowledged. Gifts received after November 30, 2019 will be credited toward the 2020 Appeal. Thank you again for your goodness and generosity.

The Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911 by Rev. Joseph Murgas, founding Pastor of Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church, Wilkes-Barre, PA. The Federation brings together under one banner both individuals of Slovak heritage as well as Catholic Slovak Fraternal Organizations for cultural, religious and educational needs. Serving as Moderator is the Right Reverend Gary Hoover, O.S.B., Abbot of St. Andrew Svorad Abbey, Cleveland, OH. National President is Reverend Andrew S. Hvozdo, V.F., Supreme Chaplain of the Slovak Catholic Sokol and Pastor of Epiphany Parish, Sayre, PA. Reverend Thomas A. Nasta, National Chaplain of the First Catholic Slovak Union and Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Swedesburg, PA, serves as First Vice President of the Federation and is the Appeal Coordinator.



### 41ST ANNUAL SAINTS CYRIL & METHODIUS APPEAL

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Slovak Catholic Federation and mail to: Rev. Thomas A. Nasta, Sacred Heart Church, 120 Jefferson St., Swedesburg, PA 19405

This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio, and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.



(Continued from page 5)

## COLLEGE

Dear Mr. Pogorelec and Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for choosing me to be the recipient for the annual scholarship award. I am so beyond grateful, as well as my family, for giving me this scholarship, as it will help me continue to achieve my goals.

Sincerely,  
Zachary Beblar  
Johnstown, PA

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors,

I would like to acknowledge that I received your scholarship check for \$1,000. I would like to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of this generous grant.

I am majoring in Exercise Science with a concentration in Human Performance with plans of becoming a Physical Therapist. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time for studying.

Thank you again for your generosity and support.

Sincerely,  
Milan Spisek  
Easton, PA

Dear Committee,

Thank you for selecting me as a scholarship recipient. Your generosity will help me with my education as I pursue a career in nursing.

Sincerely,  
Lexington Meder  
Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol,

Thank you very much for choosing me to be one of 2019 scholarship recipients. I appreciate everything this organization has done for me. I confirm receiving the check in the mail, and it has been sent to Duquesne University. I look forward to using my education to grow as an individ-

ual. I thank the Slovak Catholic Sokol for supporting me throughout the years.

Sincerely,  
Cassidy Scassa  
Pittsburgh, PA

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Supreme Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee,

I would like to thank you for selecting me as a recipient of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship. The tradition and camaraderie embedded within the organization have inspired me throughout my life. I hope to carry pride as a member with me as I grow into my academic and professional careers and my personal life. The people I have met through the Sokols have inspired me to become the best person I can be, and winning this scholarship will help me accomplish all of my goals and inspire the next generation of Sokols!

Thank you and Zdar Boh!

Sincerely,  
Katerina Tadlock  
Hartford, WI

I would like to thank the entire Slovak Catholic Sokol Supreme Board of Directors and the Scholarship Committee for selecting me to receive the 2019 Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship. I look forward to applying this scholarship to continue on with my education. I would also like to thank everyone as this lifts a great financial burden off my chest and I am more than appreciative. Once again, I am so humble and grateful for the kindness that was shown to me. Without any doubt, this will be applied towards earning my degree in the careers I aspire.

Thank you so much,  
Amanda Mondik  
Royal Palm Beach, FL

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol,

Thank you very much for awarding me the \$1,000 Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship.

I am entering my senior year at the Pennsylvania State University. I will be able to use the money toward my tuition. It is a tremendous help.

I greatly appreciate it and the prior scholarships that I have been awarded during my time in Catholic School and College.

Sincerely,  
Nicholas R. Allardyce  
Pittston, PA

(Continued on page 21)

## SOKOL CALENDAR

(Continued from page 6)

at 7 p.m. talk on Slovak Genealogy by Lisa Alzo.

### OCTOBER 15-19

■ **17TH CZECHO-SLOVAK GENEALOGICAL AND CULTURAL CONFERENCE** hosted by the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International in Lincoln, Neb.

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

■ **SLOVAKFEST 2019 HOSTED BY THE SLOVAK GARDEN**, A Home for American Slovaks, in the social hall, 3110 Howell Branch Rd., #100, Winter Park, Fla. 32792, traditional Slovak culinary specialties, folk music, \$20.00, for reservations call 407 677-6894, slovakgarden@slovakgarden.com.

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

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

### FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29

■ **GROUP 7 SOKOL REUNION** at the North End Slovak Citizens Club in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

## JOIN THE WALKING PROGRAM TODAY!

For more information contact

Katie Swift at  
katie70@aol.com



We can't always  
choose the music  
life plays for us,  
but we can choose  
how we dance to it



## WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN AUGUST 1968

Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, officially known as Operation Danube, was a joint invasion of Czechoslovakia by five Warsaw Pact nations – the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, East Germany and Poland – on the night of August 20–21, 1968. The invasion successfully stopped Alexander Dubcek's Prague Spring liberalization reforms and strengthened the authority of the authoritarian wing within the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

The process of de-Stalinization in Czechoslovakia had begun under Antonín Novotný in the late 1950s and early 1960s, but had progressed more slowly than in most other states of the Eastern Bloc. In the early 1960s, Czechoslovakia underwent an economic downturn. The Soviet model of industrialization applied poorly to Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovakia was already quite industrialized before World War II and the Soviet model mainly took into account less developed economies. Novotný's attempt at restructuring the economy, the 1965 New Economic Model, spurred increased demand for political reform as well.

Novotný invited the secretary-general of the Communist Party of Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev, to Prague in December 1967, seeking support, but Brezhnev was surprised at the extent of the opposition to Novotný and thus supported his removal as Czechoslovakia's leader. Dubcek replaced Novotný as First Secretary on January 5, 1968. On March 22, 1968, Novotný resigned his presidency and was replaced by Ludvík Svoboda, who later gave consent to the reforms.

In April, Dubcek launched an "Action Program" of liberalizations, which included increasing freedom of the press, freedom of speech, and freedom of movement, with economic emphasis on consumer goods and the possibility of a multiparty government. It would limit the power of the secret police and provide for the federalization of Czechoslovakia into two equal nations. The program also covered foreign policy, including both the maintenance of good relations with Western countries and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other Eastern Bloc nations. It spoke of a ten-year transition through which democratic elections would be made possible and a new form of democratic socialism would replace the status quo.

Although it was stipulated that reform must proceed under Communist Party direction, popular pressure mounted to implement reforms immediately. Radical elements became more vocal. Anti-Soviet polemics appeared in the press, after the formal abolishment of censorship on June 26, 1968 the Social Democrats began to form a separate party, and new unaffiliated political clubs were created. Party conservatives urged repressive measures, but Dubcek counselled moderation and re-emphasized the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia leadership. At the Presidium of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in April, Dubcek announced a political program of "socialism with a human face". In May, he announced that the Fourteenth Party Congress would convene in an early session on September 9. The congress would incorporate the Action Program into the party statutes, draft a federalization law, and elect a new Central Committee.

The Soviet leadership at first tried to stop or limit the impact of Dubcek's initiatives through a series of negotiations. Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union agreed to bilateral talks to be held in July 1968 at Cierna nad Tisou, near the Slovak-Soviet border. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia delegates reaffirmed their loyalty to the Warsaw Pact and promised to curb "anti-socialist" tendencies, prevent the revival of the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party, and control the press by the re-imposition of a higher

level of censorship. In return the USSR agreed to withdraw their troops, still stationed in Czechoslovakia since the June 1968 maneuvers, and permit the September 9 party congress.

As these talks proved unsatisfactory, the USSR began to consider a military alternative. The Soviet Union's policy of compelling the socialist governments of its satellite states to subordinate their national interests to those of the Eastern Bloc, through military force if needed, became known as the Brezhnev Doctrine.

At approximately 11 p.m. on August 20, 1968, Eastern Bloc armies from four Warsaw Pact countries – the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary – invaded Czechoslovakia. That night, 250,000 Warsaw Pact troops and 2,000 tanks entered the country. Total number of invading troops eventually reached 500,000. Romania did not take part in the invasion, nor did Albania, which subsequently withdrew from the Warsaw Pact over the matter. Participation of the German Democratic Republic was cancelled just hours before the invasion.

The decision for the non-participation of the East German Army in the invasion was indeed made on short notice by Brezhnev following requests by high-ranking Czechoslovak opponents of Dubcek who feared of much larger Czechoslovak resistance if German troops were present on Czechoslovak territory due to previous Czech experience with German occupation of Czechoslovakia.

The invasion was well planned and coordinated; simultaneously with the border crossing by ground forces, a Soviet airborne division captured Prague Václav Havel Airport, at the time called Ruzyně International Airport.

It began with a special flight from Moscow which carried more than 100 plain clothes agents. They quickly secured the airport and prepared the way for the huge forthcoming airlift, in which a transport aircraft began arriving and unloading Soviet airborne troops equipped with artillery and light tanks. As the operation at the airport continued, columns of tanks and motorized rifle troops headed toward Prague and other major centers, meeting no resistance.

During the attack of the Warsaw Pact armies, 137 Czechs and Slovaks were killed, 19 of those in Slovakia, and hundreds were wounded. Alexander Dubcek called upon his people not to resist. He was arrested and taken to Moscow along with several of his colleagues. Dubcek and most of the reformers were returned to Prague on August 27, and Dubcek retained his post as the party's first secretary until he was forced to resign in April 1969 following the Czechoslovak Hockey Riots.

Popular opposition was expressed in numerous spontaneous acts of nonviolent resistance. In Prague and other cities throughout the republic, Czechs and Slovaks greeted Warsaw Pact soldiers with arguments and reproaches. Every form of assistance, including the provision of food and water, was denied to the invaders. Signs, placards, and graffiti drawn on walls and pavements denounced the invaders, the Soviet leaders, and suspected collaborationists. Pictures of Dubcek and Svoboda appeared in the streets. Citizens gave wrong directions to soldiers and even removed street signs, except for those giving the direction back to Moscow.

The generalised resistance caused the Soviet Union to abandon its original plan to oust the First Secretary. It was agreed that Dubcek would remain in office, but he was no longer free to pursue liberalization as he had before the invasion. The invasion was followed by a wave of emigration, largely of highly qualified people, unseen before and stopped shortly after, 70,000 immediately and 300,000 in total. Western countries allowed these people to immigrate without complications.



First day of invasion in Bratislava. Photo: Ján Lörincz/SITA



T-62 tank bringing down the house in Liberec in the Czech Republic, during the "Prague Spring" in 1968.

Finally, on April 17, 1969, Dubcek was replaced as First Secretary by Gustáv Husák, and a period of "Normalization" began. Pressure from the Soviet Union pushed politicians to either switch loyalties or simply give up. In fact, the very group that voted in Dubcek and Gustáv Husák put the reforms in place were mostly the same people who annulled the program and replaced Dubcek with Husák. Husák reversed Dubcek's reforms, purged the party of its liberal members, and dismissed the professional and intellectual elites who openly expressed disagreement with the political turnaround from public offices and jobs. By May 1971, Husák could report to the delegates attending the officially sanctioned Fourteenth Party Congress that the process of normalization had been completed satisfactorily and that Czechoslovakia was ready to proceed toward higher forms of socialism.

## BIG INVESTMENT IN ELECTRIC CAR BATTERY PRODUCTION HEADING TO SLOVAKIA

*Bratislava, July 26 (TASR)* – Slovak company InoBat has signed a contract with US firm WildCat Discovery Technologies on cooperation in developing and producing batteries for the automotive industry. InoBat's co-founder and executive director Marian Bocek and WildCat Discovery Technologies President Mark Gresser told a news conference in Bratislava on Friday, July 26, with European Commission Vice-president Maros Sefcovic and European Investment Bank Vice-president Vazil Hudak in attendance.

Investment in development and constructing the production line should cost 100 million. Construction of a battery-production plant in Slovakia should start in the second quarter of 2020, with battery production launched by the end of 2021. Around 1,500 batteries will be manufactured annually at first, but the plan is to boost this 150,000 batteries eventually.

"The patented technology will serve carmakers from Central and Eastern Europe, and I believe it has the potential to kickstart an electric car battery revolution across Europe," stated Bocek, adding that the plant might be situated in western Slovakia. Details of this will be announced in a couple of weeks.

"We're pleased that Wildcat's breakthrough research technology has found a place in Central and Eastern Europe thanks to this strategic cooperation. In cooperation with InoBat and in fact with the entire region, we'll be able to maintain top place in new battery development ... We'll guarantee technological relevance, not to mention the creation of new jobs over the next few decades," stated Gresser.

According to the two officials, the joint project is a reaction to a call by the European Commission, which set the goal of achieving technological independence and improving lagging car battery production in Europe.

"The EU should become the second largest single market for electric car batteries and utility energy storage," stated Sefcovic, EC Vice-president in charge of Energy Union and a founder of the European Battery Alliance.

The estimated financial costs of constructing the production line will be partly covered by InoBat's shareholders and strategic partners and partly by loans.

"The European Investment Bank has been developing close cooperation with the European Commission in supporting the development of the EU's battery industry. It's important to bring the best global technologies to Europe and improve them in line with EU standards," added Hudak.

InoBat is a battery research and production company with a long-term goal of serving the European market for new energy solutions. InoBat is supported by investment group called IPM Group and regional industrial energy players A.EN. Group and MSM Group.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

... August is the eighth month of the year in the Gregorian calendar, coming between July and September. It has 31 days, the same number of days as the previous month, July, and is named after Roman Emperor Augustus Caesar. This month was first called *Sextilis* in Latin, because it was the sixth month in the old Roman calendar. The Roman calendar began in March about 735 BC with *Romulus*.

... The month has 31 days because Julius Caesar added two days when he created the Julian calendar in 45 BC.

## EASY SUMMER DINNER IDEAS TO MAKE IN AUGUST

### GREEK TURKEY BURGERS WITH TZATZIKI SAUCE

#### Turkey Burgers

- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 sweet onion, minced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon red-pepper flakes
- 1 pound ground turkey
- 3/4 cup bread crumbs
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

#### Tzatziki Sauce

- 1 cup Greek yogurt
- 1/2 European cucumber, diced
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 pinch garlic powder
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley

#### Burger Toppings

- 4 whole-wheat hamburger buns
- 1/2 red onion, sliced
- 8 Boston lettuce leaves
- 2 tomatoes, sliced

*Make the Turkey Burgers:* In a small skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the onion and cook until tender, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the garlic and sauté until fragrant, 1 minute more. Set aside to cool to room temperature.

In a medium bowl, mix the cooled onion mixture with the egg, parsley, oregano, red-pepper flakes and ground turkey. Add the bread crumbs, season with salt and pepper, and mix until combined. Cook the burgers on the grill.

*Make the Tzatziki Sauce:* In a medium bowl, mix the yogurt with the cucumber, olive oil, lemon juice and garlic powder to combine. Season with salt and pepper, and then stir in the parsley.

*Make the Toppings:* Place each burger on the bottom half of a bun and then top each with about 1/4 cup tzatziki, two lettuce leaves, two tomato slices and the top half of the bun. Serve immediately.

### BEER CAN CHICKEN

- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 (12 fluid ounce) can beer
- 1 (3 pound) whole chicken

Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-high heat, about 375 degrees F. Mix the brown sugar, chili powder, paprika, dry mustard, salt, and ground black pepper in a small bowl. Place the half-full can of beer in the center of a plate.

Rinse chicken under cold running water. Discard giblets and neck from chicken; drain and pat dry. Fit whole chicken over the can of beer with the legs on the bottom; keep upright. Sprinkle 1 teaspoon of the seasoning mix into the top cavity of the chicken. The beer may foam up when the seasonings fall inside the can. Rub the remaining seasoning mix over the entire surface of the chicken.

Place the chicken, standing on the can, directly on the preheated grill. Close the lid and barbeque the chicken until no longer pink at the bone and the juices run clear, about 1 hour 15 minutes. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the thigh, near the bone should read 180 degrees F. Remove the chicken from the grill and discard the beer can. Cover the chicken with a doubled sheet of aluminum foil, and allow to rest in a warm area for 10 minutes before slicing.

### SENSATIONAL SIRLOIN KABOBS

- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 3 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons distilled white vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic pepper seasoning
- 4 fluid ounces lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage
- 2 pounds beef sirloin steak, cut into 1 1/2 inch cubes
- 2 green bell peppers, cut into 2 inch pieces
- skewers
- 1/2 pound fresh mushrooms, stems removed
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes
- 1 fresh pineapple - peeled, cored and cubed

In a medium bowl, mix soy sauce, light brown sugar, distilled white vinegar, garlic powder, seasoned salt, garlic pepper seasoning, and lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage. Reserve about 1/2 cup of this marinade for basting. Place steak in a large resealable plastic bag. Cover with the remaining marinade, and seal. Refrigerate for 8 hours, or overnight.

Bring a saucepan of water to a boil. Add green peppers, and cook for 1 minute, just to blanch. Drain, and set aside.

Preheat grill for high heat. Thread steak, green peppers, mushrooms, tomatoes, and pineapple onto skewers in an alternating fashion. Discard marinade and the bag.

Lightly oil the grill grate. Cook kabobs on the prepared grill for 10 minutes, or to desired doneness. Baste frequently with reserved marinade during the last 5 minutes of cooking.

### WATERMELON FETA SALAD

- 6 cups watermelon, cubed
- 1/2 cup good quality feta, cubed or crumbled
- 2 cups arugula
- 2 tbsp aged balsamic vinegar

Arrange the arugula in a large bowl, top with the watermelon and feta. Drizzle with the balsamic vinegar.

Aged balsamic vinegar has a thick, almost syrupy consistency. The rich, slightly sweet flavor works well in this recipe. If you cannot find it, you can use a balsamic glaze (found near the vinegars in the supermarket) or you can make a balsamic reduction at home by boiling good quality balsamic vinegar.

## AUGUST IN HISTORY

**AUGUST 1** – Star-Spangled Banner author Francis Scott Key (1779-1843) was born in Frederick County, Maryland. After witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry on the night of September 13-14, 1814, he was enthralled to see the American flag still flying over the fort at daybreak. He then wrote the poem originally entitled Defense of Fort McHenry which became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

**AUGUST 2, 1939** – Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the possibility of atomic weapons. "A single bomb of this type carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory." Six years later, on August 6, 1945, the first Atomic Bomb, developed by the U.S., was dropped on the Japanese port of Hiroshima.

**AUGUST 5, 1861** – President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the first Federal income tax, a 3 percent tax on incomes over \$800, as an emergency wartime measure during the Civil War. However, the tax was never actually put into effect.

**AUGUST 9, 1945** – The second Atomic bombing of Japan occurred as an American B-29 bomber headed for the city of Kokura, but because of poor visibility then chose a secondary target, Nagasaki. About noon, the bomb detonated killing an estimated 70,000 persons and destroying about half the city.

**AUGUST 13, 1961** – The Berlin Wall came into existence after the East German government closed the border between east and west sectors of Berlin with barbed wire to discourage emigration to the West. The barbed wire was replaced by a 12 foot-high concrete wall eventually extending 103 miles (166 km) around the perimeter of West Berlin. The wall included electrified fences, fortifications, and guard posts. It became a notorious symbol of the Cold War. Presidents Kennedy and Reagan made notable appearances at the wall accompanied by speeches denouncing Communism. The wall was finally opened by an East German governmental decree in November 1989 and torn down by the end of 1990.

**AUGUST 16, 1896** – Gold was discovered in Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River in Alaska, resulting in the Great Klondike Gold Rush.

**AUGUST 17, 1978** – The first transatlantic balloon trip was completed by three Americans; Max Anderson, Ben Abruzzo, and Larry Newman, all from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Starting from Maine on August 11th, they traveled in Double Eagle II over 3,000 miles in 137 hours, landing about 60 miles west of Paris.

**AUGUST 20-21, 1968** – The Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, officially known as Operation Danube, was a joint invasion of Czechoslovakia by five Warsaw Pact countries – the Soviet Union, Poland, Bulgaria, East Germany and Hungary – on the night of 20–21 August 1968. Approximately 250,000 Warsaw pact troops attacked Czechoslovakia that night. East German forces, except for a small number of specialists, did not participate in the invasion because they were ordered from Moscow not to cross the Czechoslovak border just hours before the invasion. 137 Czechoslovakian civilians were killed and 500 seriously wounded during the occupation.

**AUGUST 21, 1959** – President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation admitting Hawaii to the Union as the 50th state.

**AUGUST 31, 1997** – Britain's Princess Diana died at age 36 from massive internal injuries suffered in a high-speed car crash, reportedly after being pursued by photographers. The crash occurred shortly after midnight in Paris inside a tunnel along the Seine River at the Pont de l'Alma bridge, less than a half mile north of the Eiffel Tower. Also killed in the crash were Diana's companion, Dodi Fayed, 42, and chauffeur Henri Paul. A fourth person in the car, bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones, was seriously injured.



## HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES & SHOPPING LIST

Back-to-school time has become its own shopping season, second only to Christmas in terms of family expenditures. Whether your kids start kindergarten this fall or head off to college, you can buy them everything they need without breaking your bank account. Let's look at some strategies to help you become a savvy back-to-school-shopper this year.

Keep in mind that back-to-school sales start a bit earlier each year. Staples now puts out its back-to-school section in late June, with many items already on sale to entice parents to buy. You can save by purchasing one or two items at a time throughout the summer. Spreading your purchases out this way can also avoid a huge hit to your monthly budget.

You might already have plenty of school supplies lying around your house. Closets, desk drawers, and basement bins could hold hidden treasures that can save you money. Start by rounding up all of the office and school supplies you already own.

Go through your kids' closets and start sorting. Clothing that kids have outgrown, as well as worn clothing, should be donated or tossed. You will have a clearer picture of what you actually need to buy. Your best bet is to start your kids' clothing shopping in mid- to late July when there are plenty of clothes to choose from.

You can get some incredible bargains on school supplies at the dollar store, where you'll find basic supplies like notebooks and pencils, as well as classroom supplies like Kleenex and sanitizer, all at bargain prices. Start shopping in the summer months, because you never know what items stores will order or how long those items will stay in stock.

Many states have sales tax holidays when shoppers can buy items without paying sales tax. On these days, you can pick up clothing, computers, and school supplies tax-free.

Follow Stores on Twitter & Facebook. Many companies send their loyal followers coupon links and advance notice of sales. If you plan to bargain-hunt this year, monitor your favorite stores' Twitter and Facebook feeds to find deals.

Most parents will have to buy some sort of electronics for their kids for school. A great way to save on these is to keep an eye on Amazon's ever-changing prices. The website camelcamelcamel tracks the price range history for every product sold on Amazon, including historic highs and lows. You can sign up for price change alerts for specific products so you know every time their prices change.

There are also plenty of apps to help you save money by comparing prices across different retailers. One is ShopSavvy, which is available for iOS and Android devices. To use ShopSavvy, simply scan the bar code of the product you're interested in and the app will tell you if a lower price is available at another store or website. For the app to work, you'll also need to download a bar code scanner, which you can get for both iOS and Android devices.

Online cash back shopping venue Ebates acts like a shopping gateway. The website allows you to shop online at over 2,500 major stores and brands.



## OBITUARIES

### Paul J. Spisak, Group 9 Sokol Activist, passes away at 78

Paul J. Spisak, Sr., well-known Group 9 Sokol activist, passed away peacefully at his home in Johnstown, Pa. on Sunday, July 21. He was 78. He was the spouse of Group 9 President Joanne E. Spisak and was an active member of Wreath 14 in Johnstown.



A native of Portage, Pa., Brother Paul was born there May 3, 1941, son of the late George J. Spisak, Jr. and the former Magdeline Lysinger. He was educated locally and was employed at Bethlehem Steel Car Shop Division and also worked at the Wire Mill. He enjoyed doing construction

work and built his own camp and many other projects. Paul was an avid fisherman and hunter, having shot a black bear in the 1970s. He was a great mushroom hunter and enjoyed his gardens. He loved Polka music and listened every weekend to the many area Polka programs on radio and enjoyed watching polka shows on television. He was a duckpin and tenpin bowler. He bowled a total of 2,300 games. He carried a 200 average when he retired from bowling. He was an active Sokol for more than 50 years. He was a regular at Group 9 bowling activities as well as our Sokol international bowling tournaments. He represented his lodge at several Sokol quadrennial conventions and was well-known throughout the organization. Together with his wife, Joanne they actively promoted various fraternal and sporting events of Group 9. In addition to the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Brother Paul also enjoyed membership in the C.F.U. Lodge 5 and was an honorary member of the Slovak Band Hall. He was a member and 50-year usher at the former St. Stephen's Slovak Parish, now the Parish of the of Resurrection, in the Cambria City section of Johnstown.

In addition to his wife, the former Joanne Popovich, whom he married on April 20, 1963, Brother Paul is survived by sons, Luke(Barbara), Paul, Jr.(Deborah), Matthew(Diane), Michael,Sr.(Sue) and Mark(Beth) all of Johnstown; and grandchildren, Kevin Slippy, Michael, Jr., Zachery, Hunter, Heather and Emily Spisak also of Johnstown. He is also survived by a sister, Kay(Edward) Paige, a brother, George, Jr.(Paula) of Johnstown; Tom(Diane) Hallsville of Texas; and Greg(Pam) of Elizabethtown, Pa. and a sister-in-law, Marie Spisak of Shipensburg, Pa.

Family, friends and fellow fraternalists paid their final respects to Brother Paul at the Francis G. Ozog Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on July 24 at Resurrection Parish with the Rev. George M. Gulash presiding. Interment followed at Grandview Cemetery.

May our Brother Paul who so beautifully mirrored the high ideals of the fraternal benefit system as well as our Cyril-Methodian faith traditions, now rest in peace. He will be missed by all.

### ANNOUNCING THE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND!!!

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://slovakcatholicsokol.org/members/memorialfrm-frame.htm> or simply send your donation to: **Dennis J. Zifcak, SCS Museum Treasurer, 33 Pinecrest Rd., Uxbridge, MA 01569**

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 \$1,000 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.

### 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.**



# In Memoriam

## MAY 2019

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 1	William Lesko, Passaic, NJ	82	March 2, 2019
Assembly 11	Theresa Hansen, Chicago, IL	85	March 21, 2019
Assembly 23	James J. Wilcox, Torrington, CT	91	May 11, 2019
Assembly 25	Joseph P. Kostolansky, Parryopolis, PA	85	February 5, 2019
Assembly 36	Dennis Boldvich, Detroit, MI	78	May 17, 2019
Assembly 48	William Scherneck, Philadelphia, PA	90	April 27, 2019
Assembly 54	Elizabeth Homa, Lyndora, PA	92	May 13, 2019
Assembly 59	Patricia A. Benedetti, Wilkes-Barre, PA	71	January 30, 2019
Assembly 59	Fred Graham, Wilkes-Barre, PA	84	April 15, 2019
Assembly 59	Anna Shurmanek, Wilkes-Barre, PA	89	April 19, 2019
Assembly 59	Margaret Teresavage, Wilkes-Barre, PA	67	August 31, 2016
Assembly 69	James E. Sankovich, Smock, PA	71	April 25, 2019
Assembly 82	Veronica A. Maslar, Dunlo, PA	89	April 17, 2019
Assembly 110	Andrew J. Pavelko, St. Clair, PA	64	April 27, 2019
Assembly 153	Victor E. Hanko, Parma, OH	80	April 22, 2019
Assembly 167	Robert W. Shroer, Barberton, OH	85	April 14, 2019
Assembly 224	Lorraine A. Hoppey, Jersey City, NJ	89	April 3, 2019
Assembly 257	Margaret Skoff, Chicago, IL	102	April 8, 2019
Assembly 261	Albert Carrigan, Reading, PA	75	May 2, 2019
Assembly 299	Russel D. Williams, Brooklyn, NY	51	April 30, 2019
Assembly 312	Lillian Reposkey, Passaic, NJ	84	April 18, 2019
Wreath 22	Helen Wassel, Pittsburgh, PA	93	April 28, 2019
Wreath 22	Rosemarie Mondel, Pittsburgh, PA	86	December 3, 2018
Wreath 34	Ferdinand S. Kabat, Cleveland, OH	89	May 15, 2019
Wreath 47	Dixie Krasky, Minneapolis, MN	76	January 16, 2019
Wreath 93	Mary Ann Allan, Milwaukee, WI	86	April 14, 2019
Wreath 103	Elizabeth Reeves, Barberton, OH	63	December 5, 2018
Wreath 153	Francis E. Hrusovsky, Parma, OH	79	April 16, 2019

## JUNE 2019

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	AGE	DATE OF DEATH
Assembly 1	Vladimir Poolinsky, Passaic, NJ	84	May 18, 2019
Assembly 9	Thomas A. Mencil, Bridgeport, CT	89	May 9, 2019
Assembly 11	Eleanor J. Schreck, Chicago, IL	88	
Assembly 11	Dawn L. Bauer, Chicago, IL	52	April 9, 2019
Assembly 23	James J. Cammilletti, Torrington, CT	59	October 26, 2018
Assembly 34	George J. Kisel, Minneapolis, MN	89	January 3, 2019
Assembly 36	Paul Drenovsky, Detroit, MI	83	March 23, 2019
Assembly 36	Michael J. Romanchik, Detroit, MI	87	May 26, 2019
Assembly 48	John Polachek, Philadelphia, PA	71	May 24, 2019
Assembly 59	William J. Greytock, Wilkes-Barre, PA	83	May 8, 2019
Assembly 59	Carl Krempasky, Wilkes-Barre, PA	85	March 8, 2019
Assembly 78	Mary Harvilla, Bethlehem, PA	95	May 27, 2019
Assembly 78	Barbara E. Reichard, Bethlehem, PA	76	November 10, 2016
Assembly 78	Cecilia V. Daniels, Bethlehem, PA	94	June 14, 2019
Assembly 82	William Single, Dunlo, PA	62	June 14, 2019
Assembly 162	Donald Kubala, Clifton, NJ	81	March 19, 2019
Assembly 162	William Resotko III, Clifton, NJ	70	May 19, 2019
Assembly 162	Daniel R. Shumack, Clifton, NJ	98	May 23, 2019
Assembly 179	John R. Yackovich, North Braddock, Pa	80	May 10, 2018
Assembly 180	Nesta Cammel, Canton, OH	84	June 6, 2019
Assembly 188	Helena Hanzlik, Lansford, PA	94	June 5, 2019
Assembly 188	Irene Milan, Lansford, PA	87	February 19, 2017
Assembly 219	Stephen J. Kubasek, Yonkers, NY	76	June 9, 2019
Assembly 257	Andrew Siuka, Chicago, IL	89	March 6, 2019
Assembly 312	John D. Makosky, Passaic, NJ	55	May 31, 2019
Assembly 312	John J. Silva, Jr.	83	April 16, 2019
Wreath 11	Lorraine Zolna, Chicago, IL	90	May 20, 2019
Wreath 15	Joseph Sabo, Parryopolis, PA	94	January 25, 2019
Wreath 21	Mary G. Visina, Superior, WI	86	May 10, 2019
Wreath 22	Ann M. Dunn, Pittsburgh, PA	83	
Wreath 85	Ann Chawner, Mc Kees Rocks, PA	90	May 17, 2019

## 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF TORONTO SLOVAK PARISH

On May 12, the Slovak community of the greater Toronto area celebrated the 85th anniversary of the founding of SS. Cyril and Methodius Slovak Parish. Initially established in downtown Toronto on Robinson Street in 1934, a new parish plant was constructed in the Toronto suburb of Mississauga in 1995.

The parish celebrated its 85th anniversary with a festive liturgy celebrated by His Eminence, Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto. Concelebrants included the Rev. Marek Novicky, Rev. Gregorz Nowicki, and the Rev. Paul Hancko. Deacon Milan Popik assisted. Following the impressive liturgy, a banquet followed in the parish center. Marie Vacval served as the very capable mistress of ceremonies. Among the special guests at the celebration was His Excellency, Vit Koziak, the recently appointed Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in Canada. The cultural program included a performance by the ever-popular Vy-chodna Slovak Dancers.

Our Assembly 227, established in Toronto in 1927, was among the founders of the parish in 1934 and has been active ever since. Our Canadian members initially belonged to Group 15 in Buffalo, N.Y. In 1979 Group 19 was established and has also been active in the parish. Many Sokols and Sokolky enjoyed the 85th anniversary celebration.

### A NOTE OF



(Continued from page 5)

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for awarding me one of the Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial High School Grants. I have been very fortunate to have attended Catholic school since pre/k. This grant will help my parents with the high cost of Catholic school tuition. I will be a junior at Cardinal O'Hara High School this coming school year. I was an honor student all of last year. I very much enjoy playing base drum in their marching band, trombone and percussion in the concert band and was elected a band officer for this coming school year.

Thank you for helping me continue my Catholic education.

Sincerely yours,  
Stephen Sherman  
Drexel Hill, PA

## PREZIDENTKA ČAPUTOVÁ POLOŽILA VENIEC PRI PAMÄTNÍKU M. R. ŠTEFÁNICA VO FRANCÚZSKU



Na snímke druhá sprava prezidentka SR Zuzana Čaputová položila kyticu k soche generála Milana Rastislava Štefánika pri observatóriu v Meudone v Paríži.

- Autor: TASR, Martin Baumann

Prezidentka Slovenskej republiky Zuzana Čaputová 25. júla položila veniec k pamätníku Milana Rastislava Štefánika v areáli observatória v meste Meudon v metropolitnej oblasti Paríža. Štefánik v meudonskom observatóriu, ktoré sa nachádza iba niekoľko kilometrov na juhozápad od centra Paríža, pôsobil na začiatku 20. storočia ako astronóm.

Čaputová vyzdvihla Štefánikov odkaz aj počas stretnutia s francúzskym prezidentom Emmanuelom Macronom 24. júla v Elyzejskom paláci. Ako uviedla, Štefánik, ktorý tragicky zahynul pred 100 rokmi, sa pričínal o historicky dobré vzťahy medzi Slovenskom a Francúzskom, pričom Francúzsko zohralo dôležitú rolu aj pri vzniku Československa.

„Odkaz generála Štefánika je dôkazom, že hlboké vnútorné vlastenectvo nie je v rozpore so silnou európskou identitou a globálnym myslením,“ vyhlásila Čaputová. Zdôraznila, že do Paríža prišla reprezentovať Slovensko ako krajinu, ktorá vo vysokej miere podporuje členstvo a integráciu v Európskej únii.

Ako o tom ešte začiatkom tohto roka informovalo slovenské ministerstvo kultúry, SR prispeje na rekonštrukciu observatória v Meudone sumou 350 000 eur.

## SILNÁ POZÍCIA PSA A KIA NA SLOVENSKU POKRAČUJE

Najnovšie čísla dvoch slovenských automobiliek za prvý polrok 2019 akoby popierali stav, ktorý rezonuje v európskom automobilovom priemysle. Dvojica závodov PSA Trnava a Kia Žilina vyrobila medziročne viac automobilov a pripravila si tiež pôdu pre elektrifikáciu modelov.

V PSA za prvých šesť mesiacov tohto roku vyrobili vyše 203-tisíc vozidiel, čo predstavuje takmer 58 percent vlaňajšej výroby. Viac ako dve tretiny produkcie tvoril model Citroën C3, takmer tretinu model Peugeot 208. V tomto roku plánujú vyrobiť okolo 370-tisíc vozidiel. Vlni ich vyrobili 352-tisíc.

V Kia Motors Slovakia vyprodukovali za prvý polrok vyše 180-tisíc vozidiel, čo je o zhruba desaťtisíc viac ako v rovnakom období vlaňajška. Vyrobili však 222-tisíc motorov, pričom vlni to bolo 236-tisíc. Dôvodom je konštantný pokles záujmu o automobily s naftovými motormi od začiatku tohto roka, pre ktorý musela fabrika náhle prepustiť zhruba tridsiatku zamestnancov.

## NA SLOVENSKU SA ZA 60 ROKOV ZVÝŠIL POČET OBYVATELOV O 1,4 MILIÓNA

Za posledných 60 rokov sa na Slovensku zvýšil počet obyvateľov o 37 percent, ale tempo rastu klesá. Informoval o tom Štatistický úrad (ŠÚ) pri príležitosti Svetového dňa populácie.

Kým v roku 1959 malo Slovensko necelé štyri milióny obyvateľov, vlni to bolo o 1,4 milióna viac.

„Rast populácie bol v priebehu posledných šiestich dekád vyšší ako vo väčšine okolitých krajín východnej Európy. Napríklad Maďarsko či Bulharsko majú za toto obdobie dokonca mierny pokles počtu obyvateľov,“ uvádza štatistický úrad.

V horizonte šiestich dekád sa podľa štatistického úradu zvýšil aj počet obyvateľov západnej Európy, približne o tretinu.

Z priemeru vyčnieva Francúzsko so 44-percentným rastom, Španielsko s rastom o 55 percent a Írsko, ktorému sa zvýšil počet obyvateľov až o 72 percent.

Štatistický úrad pripomína, že na Slovensku žije 5,4 milióna obyvateľov, slovenskí občania s pobytom v materskej krajine tvoria jedno percento obyvateľov Európskej únie a sedem stotín percenta obyvateľstva planéty Zem.

Podľa dát OSN žije v EÚ viac ako 512 miliónov ľudí a na planéte Zem vyše 7,6 miliardy ľudí (všetky dáta za rok 2018). - TASR

## SUCHO TRÁPI AŽ 90 PERCENT ÚZEMIA SLOVENSKA

Sucho rôznej intenzity trápi až 90 percent územia Slovenska. Nedostatok zrážok sa prejavil v prvom polroku 2019 predovšetkým na západnom, severozápadnom a severnom Slovensku. Meteorológovia označili aktuálny stav sucha za alarmujúci. Predpovedajú, že deficit bude počas leta ešte rásť. Informuje o tom Slovenský hydrometeorologický ústav (SHMÚ) na svojej webstránke.

Najhorší vývoj zrážok evidujú meteorológovia na krajnom západe Slovenska. Ako príklad uvádzajú mesto Piešťany, kde sa namiesto striedaní období s nedostatkom a prebytkom zrážok za posledné tri roky iba hromadili obdobia bez zrážok.

„Pri analýze deficitov zrážok v jednotlivých desaťročiach od polovice 20. storočia sa ukázalo, že stav v Piešťanoch je teraz priebežne najhorší zo všetkých analyzovaných dekád od roku 1951. Nepomohol ani tohtoročný máj, ktorý bol mimoriadne bohatý na zrážky,“ skonštatovali odborníci.

Nedostatok vlahy ovplyvňuje takmer každý sektor hospodárstva, pripomenuli meteorológovia. Okrem vodohospodárov zasahuje sucho aj poľnohospodárov.

„Ak aj na niektorých miestach môžu využívať závlahy, treba zaplatiť ich prevádzku a toto podporuje rast cien poľnohospodárskych komodít a, samozrejme, aj samotní producenti začínajú uvažovať, čo sa im ešte oplatí pestovať,“ vysvetlilo SHMÚ. Sucho sa prejavuje aj v lesnom hospodárstve, požiare hrozia aj v oblastiach, v ktorých v minulosti bývalo vlhko.

Situácia so zrážkami sa po daždivom máji opäť zhoršila v júni, ktorý bol extrémne teplý. Výrazný nedostatok zrážok pokračuje až doteraz. K 21. júlu evidovali meteorológovia extrémne suchu v štyroch staniách. Veľmi suché podmienky prevládajú najmä na západnom Slovensku a na severe stredného Slovenska.

Na meteorologické sucho nadväzuje aj pôdna sucha. Pôdna vlhkosť je na takmer celom území Slovenska nižšia ako dlhodobý priemer za obdobie 1961 – 2010,“ upozornili meteorológovia. Na Orave a Kysuciach dosahuje deficit pôdnej vlahy až -100 milimetrov.

## SLOVENSKÉ STÍHAČKY F-16 VYROBÍ AMERICKÁ FIRMA LOCKHEED MARTIN

Americké ministerstvo obrany zadalo spoločnosti Lockheed Martin zákazku za 800 miliónov amerických dolárov na slovenské stíhačky F-16.

Kontrakt zahŕňa výrobu a podporu 14 strojov F-16 určených pre slovenskú armádu.

Ako ďalej informuje Ministerstvo obrany Spojených štátov amerických, vyrábané budú v meste Greenville v South Carolina a celá zákazka by sa mala skompletizovať do 31. januára 2024.

Lockheed Martin tak za výrobu strojov F-16 pre slovenskú armádu zinkasuje podľa aktuálneho prepočtu zhruba 700 miliónov dolárov.

Slovensko však americkej strane uhradí vyše 1,6 miliardy eur. V tejto cene je započítaná aj logistická podpora, výcvik pilotov a pozemného personálu v Spojených štátoch amerických a munícia.

Otázny zostáva servis strojov, ktorý je podľa dostupných informácií zabezpečený na prvé dva roky, vrátane záručných opráv.

Z celkovo 14 stíhačiek F-16 má byť 12 v jednomiestnej verzii a dve majú byť dvojmiestne tréningové stroje.

Prvé štyri lietadlá Američania dodajú v roku 2022 a zvyšných desať o rok neskôr.

Vláda SR rozhodla o obstaraní nových stíhačiek ešte v júli. Ministerstvo obrany SR zvažovalo vo finálnej časti okrem amerických strojov aj švédske Jas-39 Gripen. V prospech F-16 rozhodli väčšie operačné možnosti. V Spojených štátoch amerických sa bude pripravovať 22 pilotov a 160 profesionálov v rámci pozemného personálu. - TASR

## ACH, TÁ NAŠA SLOVENČINA!

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## FESTIVAL SLOVENSKÉHO DEDIČSTVA V NEW JERSEY

42. Festival slovenského dedičstva bude v nedeľu 22. septembra v Middlesex County Fairgrounds, 655 Cranbury Rd., East Brunswick, NJ.

Grécko-katolícka svätá omša bude o 10.00 hodine dopoludnia. Celebrovať ju bude Otec Martin Vavrák zo South Amboy, NJ.



V kultúrnom programe, ktorý začne o 11.30 hodine, sa predstavia deti zo Slovenskej školy v Queens a Limboráčik z New Yorku. Slovenské školy Lipka Akademy z Linden, NJ a Domovinka z Cliftonu, NJ vytúpia v spoločnom programe "Od detstva k svadbe". O 2.30 hod. vystúpi folklórny súbor Limbora z New Yorku.

O 3.15 hod. hodine vystúpi skupina Cigánski diabli zo Slovenska a o 4.30 hodine sa predstaví oblúbený humorista Drišlak taktiež zo Slovenska.

Počas dňa bude na predaj bohatý výber slovenských jedál a koláčov. Na predaj budú aj rôzne výrobky dovezené zo Slovenska (krištál, keramika, vyšivky, rôzne ľudové výrobky z dreva, skla a bohatý výber slovenských cukríkov a populárnych pochútok.

## DODAJTE OBLEČENIU ZNOVU LESK

Po častom praní oblečenie stráca farbu a bledne. S pomocou prírodných prostriedkov mu však môžete vrátiť pôvodnú farbu.

**CITRÓN** - Zašednuté oblečenie nechajte pár hodín namočené v horúcej vode, do ktorej pridáte citrón nakrájaný na plátky alebo ho môžete aj vymačkať. Potom oblečenie vyperte ako zvyčajne. Druhou možnosťou je pridať asi sto mililitrov citrónovej šťavy priamo do prania, do bubna práčky.

**PRÁŠOK DO PEČIVA** - Oblečenie namočte do vody, v ktorej ste rozpustili obyčajný prášok do pečiva a nechajte močiť asi hodinu. Prípadne môžete prášok do pečiva pridať priamo do prania k praciemu prášku.

**VÍNNY OCOT** - Oblečenie zmäkčuje a má aj bieliace účinky. Pri praní ho trochu nalejte namiesto aviváže. Nemusíte mať obavy, že oblečenie bude octom cítiť, vínný ocot nemá tak silnú arómu ako ten bežný a po uschnutí nebudete o použití octu ani vedieť.

## KRÁTKE SPRÁVY ZO SLOVENSKA



Slovensko je po Rakúsku druhým štátom s najväčšou zásobou pitnej vody na svete. Napriek tomu však Slovensko trpí sucho. Vyprázdňuje studne, znižuje úrodu poľnohospodárom, zastavuje vodné elektrárne. Problémy s dostatkom pitnej vody spôsobené vyššími teplotami a suchom sa prehlbujú, potvrdila hovorkyňa Bratislavskej vodárenskej spoločnosti Alexandra Maszayová. A situácii nepomáha ani občasná búrka či mierne ochladenie. Nárazové zrážky totiž nestíhajú vsakovať do podlažia a v zimných mesiacoch je málo snehu, takže vodárenské zdroje sa dopĺňajú nestíhajú.

Za prvý štvrtrok tohto roka zaznamenalo Slovensko veľký nárast v počte domácich aj zahraničných turistov. Za prvý kvartál tohto roka navštívilo SR 1,3 milióna návštevníkov, čo je nárast takmer o 10 % v porovnaní s rovnakým obdobím minulého roka. Najviac turistov bolo z Českej republiky, Maďarska, Nemecka, Poľska a v rámci prvých 10 krajín sa vyskytujú aj Spojené štáty americké. Najviac turistov navštívilo Bratislavu, Košice a Tatry.

Zvyšných päť vrtulníkov typu UH-60M Black Hawk bude dodaných z USA na Slovensko do konca roka. Slovensko si objednálo vrtulníky ešte za predchádzajúceho vedenia rezortu obrany za viac ako 220 miliónov eur. Celkovo ide o deväť vrtulníkov, štyri už Ministerstvo obrany SR využíva.

V oceliarskom podniku U. S. Steel Košice museli za ostatných pár mesiacov riešiť problém s poklesom objednávok a teda aj znížením výroby či výrobných kapacít. Za ostatných pár mesiacov muselo vedenie podniku riešiť problém s poklesom objednávok a teda aj znížením výroby či výrobných kapacít. Prijali a naďalej prijímajú opatrenia na kontrolované znižovanie nákladov. Do konca roka 2021 plánujú prepustiť až 2 500 zamestnancov. Prezident U. S. Steel Košice James E. Bruno, oznámil, že prijímajú toto rozhodnutie po starostlivom zvážení toho, že musia konať, aby ochránili ich podnikanie a zostali konkurencieschopní.



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