

Za Boha a Národ



For God and Nation

Slovak Catholic Falcon

Slovenský Katolícky Sokol

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Thousands enjoy annual celebration of Slovak culture and heritage

The 85th Slovak American Day Held at Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh

by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr., Ph.D.



Well-known Slovak fraternal and cultural activist, Cecilia Sarocky, chairperson of this year's 85th annual Pittsburgh Slovak Day Committee is shown above introducing the members of the PAS Slovak Folk Ensemble who plan to participate in the renown Detva Festival in Slovakia next summer.

In keeping with a long tradition, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Cultural Association hosted the 85th Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin - a Pittsburgh suburb - on Thursday, July 17, 2008. Unlike last year's rainy weather, this time the weather cooperated; it was hot and humid, and all could enjoy the rides as well as the marvelous Slovak events.

The Pittsburgh event at Kennywood has continued since

the 1920s, when many Slovak-Americans decided they wished to celebrate their heritage during the summer months. From the time it first began, Slovak-American newspapers had successfully adjusted to American life, while maintaining many of their cultural traditions.

Since Kennywood is an amusement park full of shaded picnic grounds, it has afforded both young and old alike an opportunity to enjoy a fun-packed day.

After trying some early rides at the park, most everyone began the Slovak part of the day by enjoying a bountiful lunch at the *Slovenska kuchyna* (Slovak Kitchen). The meal included a bountiful helping of *halupky* (stuffed cabbage), *pirohy*, *halusky* (cabbage and noodles), *klobasa*, and *ceregy*. A complete meal cost only six dollars and was a delicious bargain compared to typical amusement park prices.

Among those helping to serve in the Slovak Kitchen were David Blazek, the president of the locally-based National Slovak Society.

Some of the first afternoon events featured the lively dancing and splendid singing of children and youth from the Junior Pittsburgh Slovaks ensemble and the PAS Junior Dance Group.

Another focal point of Slovak Day is the opening ceremony and the celebration of Mass. The Rev. Joseph A. Grosko, pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in West Mifflin, who is also president of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Committee, offered the invocation. The Honorable Cynthia Maleski Groch, Esq. the regional vice president of the Slovak League of American and a National Trustee of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association served as the mistress of ceremonies.

After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the Slovak and American national anthems, Attorney Maleski introduced special guests, which included several national leaders of our Slovak fraternals, including Supreme Officers of the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

A traditional part of the annual Slovak Day observance is the celebration of Mass in Slovak. This year's concelebrated liturgy at 4 p.m. saw the Rev. Micah E. Kozoil, pastor of St. Mary's (Nativity) parish in Uniontown, Pa. as principal celebrant. Concelebrating with

him were priests of Slovak ancestry from the Dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, Altoona-Johnstown as well as other area dioceses.

While most of the liturgy was celebrated in English, as is typical, the singing was all in Slovak. Leader of song was Robert Ponchak with the Rev. Greg Madeya at the organ. As always, it was an inspiring liturgy.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, a special ceremony took place. The Slovak Heritage Society of the Laurel Highlands

(Continued on page 10)



Accepting the \$500 check in support of the PAS Folk Ensemble from the Slovak Heritage Association of the Laurel Highlands are from the left, Angie and John Lipchak, Joseph Palus, Susan Kalcik and Milenka Kopanic Feighner and Cecilia Sarocky. - photo by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.



Our Sokolka of Wreath 14 in Johnstown, Pa., Milenka Kopanic Feighner, is shown above performing a spirited Slovak folk dance as a member of the PAS Slovak Folk Ensemble at this year's Pittsburgh Slovak Day.



All smiles from some of the Slovak Kitchen staff including, from the left, David Blazek, president of the National Slovak Society; Joseph Elliott, Ted Alden, Luren Strawser and Cindy Schleichsch.

- photo by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.

SOKOL

Calendar

SUN.AUG. 31

■ Annual Cleveland Slovak Festival hosted by the Cleveland Slovak Radio Club at St. Anthony of Padua Hall, 6740 State Road, Parma, Oh. from noon to 8 p.m., cultural program at 3 p.m.

SEPT. 3-6

■ 121st annual meeting of the National Fraternal Congress of America in Washington, D.C.

THURS. SEPT. 4

■ Assembly 206 special meeting to fill two vacant officers' positions at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 801 11th St., Ambridge, Pa. beginning at 7:30 p.m.

SEPT. 5-7

■ St. Michael the Archangel Byzantine Catholic Cathedral Festival at the chapel grounds, 445 Lackawanna Ave., West Paterson, N.J.; Friday and Saturday 4-8 p.m.; Sunday, 12 noon to 6 p.m.

SAT. SEPT. 6

■ 33rd annual Group 3 Sokol Golf Open at Heritage Country Club, Charlton, Mass.

■ 2nd Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol Walk-A-Thon for participants in our walking program.

SUN. SEPT. 7

■ Annual Slavic Festival of Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic parish, 3410 Woodburn

Rd., Annandale, Va.; Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m., festivities to follow until 6 p.m.; for information call (703)573-3986.

■ Slovak Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 400 Michigan Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. at 11 a.m.

MON. SEPT. 8

■ Wreath 111 patronal feast day observance at the American Slovak Club, 2915 Broadway, Lorain, Oh. beginning at 6:30 p.m.

■ Assembly 16 and Wreath 22 meetings at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson St., South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa., Wreath meeting begins at 7 p.m., Assembly meeting follows board of directors meeting.

TUES. SEPT. 9

■ Assembly 261 and Wreath 155 meetings at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 411 Crestmont St., Reading, Pa. following the Home Association Meeting which begins at 7 p.m.

SAT. SEPT. 13

■ Assembly 11 annual meeting and luncheon at the Camelot Banquet Hall, 8624 West 95th St., Hickory Hills, Ill. beginning at 12 noon; call Joseph A. Seliga (773)476-1844.

■ Quarterly meeting of the Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors via a teleconference call beginning at 10 a.m.

SUN. SEPT. 14

■ 15th annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Mother of Sorrows at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon, North Jackson,

Oh.; beginning with devotions at 3 p.m., Mass at 4 p.m., dinner to follow, tickets \$14.00, adults, \$6.00 children; call Rev. George Franko at (330) 782-9126.

THURS. SEPT. 18

■ Assembly 28 meeting at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall, Route 16, Douglas, Mass. beginning at 7 p.m.

SAT. SEPT. 20

■ Rusyn-Slovak Song Festival in the auditorium of St. John the Baptist Parish, 364 Mill Hill Ave., Bridgeport, Conn. beginning at 1:30 p.m.

■ Group 4 annual meeting at the Franklin Public Library, 9151 West Loomis Rd., Franklin, Wis. beginning at 11 a.m.

■ Assembly 28 centennial celebration at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall, Route 16, Douglas, Mass.

■ Sokol Home Association Dance featuring the Blues Band of Mark Furman at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 411 Crestmont St., Reading, Pa. 9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m.

■ Group 1 officers meeting at Slovak Catholic Sokol headquarters, 205 Madison St., Passaic, N.J. beginning at 12 noon.

SUN. SEPT. 21

■ 4th biennial testimonial dinner hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association at the Greentree Radisson Hotel, Greentree-Pittsburgh, Pa., reception at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m., call (412)531-2990.

■ Group 17 Annual Family Fun Day End of Summer Picnic at Boardman Park Ex-Servicemen's Pavilion, Route 224, Boardman, Oh. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; call Edith Babik (330) 782-9555.

■ Wreath 103 continental breakfast following the Masses at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 189 Fifteenth St., Barberton, Oh. in the school hall.

Make an effort to enroll new members in 2008

Who can be a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol

As per the decision of the delegates of the 30th National Convention assembled in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 6-10, the following qualifications for membership have been adapted. Also, beginning January 1, 2008 the minimum life insurance certificate issued by our organization is \$5,000.

Qualifications for Membership:

To become an insured member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, a person must furnish satisfactory evidence of insurability and be no more than eighty(80) years of age, nearest birthday.

Insurability:

To become an active member, an individual must meet the underwriting standards of the organization required to process an active life insurance or annuity certificate.

Membership Eligibility:

- * Supports the ideals of the Catholic Faith.
- * Preserves the Slovak Heritage.
- * Upholds the Bylaws of the S.C.S.
- * An applicant must apply for membership through a member in good standing or an appointed agent of the S.C.S. Such application must be made by the form supplied by the Home Office.

Individuals who may not be considered:

- * In anyway offends public morality.
- * Supports a group/movement whose aims are contrary to the Catholic Church.
- * Fails to comply with the requirements of the Membership Eligibility.

Application and Acceptance:

- * Applicant is bound by the laws of the State of New Jersey.
- * Applicant is bound in all matters arising out of the Bylaws.

Recommenders:

- * A member in good standing may recommend a new member.
- * A licensed agent appointed by the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Application:

- * Form supplied by the Home Office of the S.C.S.
- * All underwriting requirements must be met and fulfilled.

Requirements for Insurance:

1. Regardless of whether the application is considered as "medical" or "non-medical", all questions on the application for membership as well as PART I and PART II of the application for insurance must be answered.

2. Where a medical examination is required for membership, the Medical Examiner's Confidential Report(PART III) must be completed.

3. An Assembly or Wreath officer should sign new applications for membership, whenever possible.

Minimum Face Amounts:

Certificates may be issued for all issue ages in amounts equal to or greater than the following:

All Life Plans - Minimum..... \$5,000

With the expanded eligibility requirements for membership, now is the time for us to make a concerted effort to enroll all our family and friends. New membership insures the continued growth of our organization. Make an effort now to participate in our "Help Us Grow (HUG) Membership Campaign" which covers all business submitted from January 1 to June 25, 2008. It's an appropriate title for a membership campaign since it makes sense to give that family member a "Big hug" and say "I love you" while wrapping them in a S.C.S. life insurance or annuity security blanket. For applications, rate charts or brochures, feel free to contact the Home Office at our toll free number: 1-800-886-7656. Thank you for your part in helping to increase our membership in 2008. Zdar Boh!

Fraternally yours,
Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Supreme Secretary

Annuity Rate at 4.00 %

Effective July 1, 2008, our Slovak Catholic Sokol annuities earn 4.0% interest. A Slovak Catholic Sokol annuity is a very sound financial investment. For information and a brochure, write the home office or call our toll free number 1-800-886-7656.



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LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, the Home Office in Passaic, N.J. will be closed on Monday, September 1. The Home Office will reopen for business on Tuesday, September 2. Regular office hours are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Best wishes for an enjoyable Labor Day observance.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS SEPTEMBER 10

In keeping with our bi-weekly publishing schedule, the next issue of the Slovak Catholic Falcon will be that of Wednesday, September 10. Deadline for all photos and information for this issue will be Friday, September 5. Thanking you for your continued cooperation in this matter, I remain
Zdar Boh!
Daniel F. Tanzone,
Editor

Lodge Jottings

BARBERTON, OH. Wreath 103

As is our fraternal tradition, our Wreath will again host a Continental Breakfast on Sunday, September 21 following the Sunday Masses at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church where the pastor is the Rev. Edward F. Lajack. We extend a cordial invitation to the parishioners as well as our own members to join us for some traditional Sokol fellowship in the school hall located at 189 Fifteenth Street. We will have an exhibit of our organization's activities as well as brochures indicating the various insurance and annuity products offered by the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Hopefully, in this way we will attract some new members.

We look forward to seeing a good turnout at this fraternal activity where we will have the opportunity to meet and greet old friends and hopefully make new ones in the best traditions of Sokol fraternalism.

Zdar Boh!

Rita Polacek

Recording Secretary

CHICAGO, ILL. Assembly 11

All members are urged to attend a special annual meeting and luncheon of our Assembly under the patronage of SS. Cyril and Methodius on Saturday, September 13 at the meeting room of the beautiful Camelot Banquet Hall located at 8624 West 95th Street in Hickory Hills, Ill. Doors will open at 11:45 p.m. and the meeting will begin promptly at 12 noon with a delicious family style luncheon, including dessert, served at the conclusion of the meeting.

With the recent merger of Wreath 92 into Assembly 11, we now have over one thousand members, however because of lack of attendance at our meetings, as well as lack of interest by our members, Assembly 11 is facing the very same problems that Wreath 92 and the other Assemblies and Wreaths that were merged into Assembly 11. Our Assembly is in excellent financial condition, but if no one takes over the reins of our lodge, Assembly 11 will be, either merged into another Assembly or Wreath, or dissolved, with our membership and all of our assets being controlled by headquarters.

There will be no charge for the luncheon, but we are asking for a reservation deposit of \$10.00, which will be returned to the members at the meeting. For those members who can't drive and need to bring a driver, non-members can attend the luncheon, but will not receive a refund. All reservations for this Special Annual Meeting and Luncheon should be mailed to Joseph A. Seliga, 5650 South Richmond St., Chicago, IL 60629 no later than Saturday, August 30, for additional information on our gathering call Joseph A. Seliga at tel. (773)476-1844.

Zdar Boh!

Frank R. Stolar

President

Joseph A. Seliga
Financial Secretary

LORAIN, OH. Wreath 111

Our Lady has helped and interceded for us in many ways over the years. Our Wreath founders chose Our Lady as our heavenly patroness. In appreciation, we will host our traditional patronal feast day observance on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Monday, September 8 at the American Slovak Home located at 2915 Broadway beginning at 6:30 p.m. Following the regular business of the meeting we then enjoy some refreshments. We will also host a traditional Harvest Auction which will feature items from our members' gardens and kitchens. An enjoyable evening has been planned and we extend a cordial invitation to all our members to join us for this annual fraternal event.

This year marks the 86th anniversary of the founding of our Wreath. It was in the spring of 1922 that Wreath 111 was established. The first officers elected at that time included Maria Nocjar, president; Bertha Vargo, recording secretary; Katarina Gencur, financial secretary; Anna Zahoranec, treasurer; and Kristina Krupa and Margaret Katricak, auditors. Over these many decades, our Wreath has enjoyed great fraternal success. We look forward to continued success in the best traditions of Lorain Sokol fraternalism. We remind our members that our meetings are held every second Monday of the month at the American Slovak Home beginning at 6:30 p.m. We invite our members to join us for these evenings of fraternal fellowship.

Wishing all a pleasant fall season, I remain

Zdar Boh!

Anna Gaydos

President

PITTSBURGH, PA. Assembly 16 Wreath 22

As we anticipate the wonderful fall season, we remind our members that the first meetings of both our lodges are scheduled for Monday, September 8 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, South Side. Our Wreath meeting will begin promptly at 7 p.m. while the Assembly meeting begins immediately following the Board of Directors meeting. All members are invited to attend as we make plans for the coming fraternal season.

Looking ahead, we ask our members to mark their calendars for our traditional Halloween Dance for adults and children alike which will be held on Friday evening, October 31 at the Sokol Club. An enjoyable evening has been planned and additional details will be forthcoming.

Zdar Boh!

Jerry Lutz

Recording Secretary

At the Greentree Radisson Hotel in Pittsburgh

Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association to honor Bishop David A. Zubik at its Awards Dinner

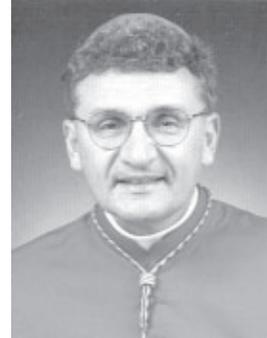
The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA) will host its Fourth Consular Testimonial Awards Dinner on Sunday, September 14th at the Greentree Radisson Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pa. As is its tradition, the dinner honors those who by their distinguished leadership and service have enriched Slovak culture and heritage in the fields of Religion, Business, Government, Heritage, and Lifetime Achievement. Such individuals have made substantial contributions to the common good and our American way of life.

Heading the list of 2008 honorees is the Most Rev. David A. Zubik, the Bishop of Pittsburgh, who receives the WPSCA Religion Award. A native of Swickley, Pa., His Excellency attended St. Paul Seminary in Pittsburgh and received undergraduate degrees from Duquesne University in 1971 and a master's in theology from St. Mary Seminary and University in Baltimore. He was ordained a priest in 1975. He was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Pittsburgh in 1997. From 2003 to 2007, he served as Bishop of Green Bay, Wis. On July 18, 2007, he was named Bishop of Pittsburgh. Both of Bishop Zubik's maternal grandparents were born in Slovakia. Bishop Zubik is the first American of Slovak ancestry to serve as Bishop of Pittsburgh.

The WPSCA Government Award goes to Gregory C. Fajt, Chief of Staff to Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell. As Chief of Staff, Fajt serves as the top advisor to the Governor and manages the day-to-day activities of the executive branch of state government, including 18 cabinet agencies and the Governor's Office. Prior to that, he served as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue from March 2003 through February 2007. He also served as a State Representative from the 42nd District of Allegheny County from 1991 to 1996. Greg is

a resident of Mount Lebanon for the past 25 years. His paternal grandparents both came from Slovakia at the turn of the 20th century.

The WPSCA Business Award will



Bishop David A. Zubik

be presented to Frederick N. Frank, director of the Slovak American Enterprise Fund. Mr. Frank serves as a director of the Slovak American Enterprise Fund, having been appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1998. The fund's purpose is to support emerging small and medium sized businesses in Slovakia by operating as a private venture capital fund with U.S. dollars. The Fund has invested tens of millions of dollars in Slovak-owned companies. In this capacity, Mr. Frank has made over 40 trips to Slovakia. He has been recognized for his service by receiving awards from President George Bush in 2006 and from the Slovak Ambassador to the United States in 2007. The directors serve without pay.

The WPSCA Heritage Award will be presented to Rudy and Sue Ondrejko, directors of the Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour and the Pittsburgh Slovakians. The Pittsburgh Slovakians folk dance group was formed in 1956 by Roman Niznik. Rudy and Sue succeeded him in 1977. The ensemble with its senior and junior divisions currently

includes more than 40 dancers. They perform about 20 times a year in the Pittsburgh area. Over the years, they have also performed at the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. as well as in many cities in Slovakia. Rudy, Sue and their four daughters have been dancers in the group. The popular couple have hosted the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour since 1979.

The WPSCA Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to David G. Blazek, President of the National Slovak Society, (NSS). A resident of Peters Township, Pa., Dave is known throughout the fraternal benefit system. His career began in 1986 when he was elected a director of the NSS. Since 1993, he has served as the national president of the NSS, the oldest Slovak fraternal in the United States, founded in Pittsburgh in February 1890. Under his leadership, the assets of the NSS have more than quadrupled. He is a past president of both the New Jersey and Pennsylvania State Fraternal Congresses and has served in positions in the National Fraternal Congress of America. Dave also served as president of the Fraternal Societies of Greater Pittsburgh.

The keynote speaker at this year's dinner will be Charles Dougherty, president of Duquesne University. Igor Pokojny, the Slovak Consul General from New York will bring greetings from the Slovak government. Musical entertainment will be provided by Andrej Pivnicka and Friends. Tickets are \$55.00 per person. For dinner reservations contact Joseph Senko at (412) 531-2990 (office) or (412) 343-5031. A commemorative book will be issued in conjunction with the annual dinner. Ads for the book are available by contacting Brother Senko who serves as the Honorary Slovak Consul in Pittsburgh and is Executive Director of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association.

Welcome to the Slovak Catholic Sokol

Introducing Our New Members Enrolled During the Month of July 2008

ASSEMBLY/ WREATH	MEMBER	CITY/STATE	RECOMMENDER
S-113	Hannah Marie Albricht	Kenosha, WI	Tony L. Scuglik
S-113	Lily Ann Albright	Kenosha, WI	Tony L. Scuglik
S-064	Josephine B. Berdis	Erie, PA	Amy Berdis
S-016	Zachary J. Cielewich	Pittsburgh, PA	Michael J. Pjontek Jr.
S-079	Alexander Joseph Fencik	Lilly, PA	Robert P. Rusted
S-096	James P. Fogle	Niagara Falls, NY	Charles J. Fogle
S-108	Robert Herbert	Youngstown, OH	Sue Prozy
V-093	Bret H. Hoeck	Milwaukee, WI	Bradley Hoeck
S-016	Roy Howard	Pittsburgh, PA	Kathleen S. Watkins
S-227	Jessica Klimkait	Toronto, CN	Home Office
S-227	Justin Klimkait	Toronto, CN	Home Office
V-022	Blaze La Boon	Pittsburgh, PA	Kern Malanowski
V-054	John Lengyel Jr	Youngstown, OH	Sheni Lengyel
S-016	Andrew Michel	Pittsburgh, PA	Kathleen S. Watkins
V-022	Sophia Michel	Pittsburgh, PA	Kathleen S. Watkins
V-022	Nancy Michalcin	Pittsburgh, PA	Kathleen S. Watkins
S-108	Dean Platt	Youngstown, OH	Sue Prozy
S-025	Ryan Andrew Sharpe	Perryopolis, PA	Michael T. Matras
S-182	Gloria Jean Vadovic	New York, NY	Joseph Vadovic
S-227	Michael B Wolfe	Toronto, CN	Home Office
S-219	Robert R. Begany	Yonkers, NY	Daniel F. Tanzone



REFLECTOR ...

Jottings from Sokol and Slovak life

Cyrlites to inaugurate Centennial Year observance on September 14

The Congregation of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius, which has enjoyed an important role in the religious and educational training of generations of Slovaks and their descendants over the past century, will officially open its Centennial year observance on Sunday, September 14 at their Motherhouse, Villa Sacred Heart in Danville, Pa. The festivities begin with a Pontifical concelebrated liturgy in the Basilica of SS. Cyril and Methodius at 2 p.m. Principal celebrant of the liturgy will be the Most Rev. Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop of Altoona-Johnstown, Pa. A reception for invited guests will follow the Mass.

With an increasing number of Slovak immigrants legally entering the United States in the final decades of the nineteenth and early years of the twentieth centuries, Slovak parishes had been established in more than 200 American communities in the eastern and midwestern states. Led by the call of the American bishops to establish schools for the children of these parishes, Slovak pastors longed for the day when their parishes would open their own parochial schools. Led by the Rev. Matthew Jankola, who was ordained a priest of the Scranton Diocese in 1892, the St. Anthony Treasury was established. This project had as its purpose the support of a new congregation of religious women who would teach in the Slovak parochial schools. In many Slovak churches, a shrine to St. Anthony of Padua was established with vigil candles to be lit by the faithful. The funds realized from these shrines were collected in support of the new religious congregation. While pastor in Hazleton, Pa., after several earlier starts, Father Jankola finally succeeded in interesting three young Slovak women to consider joining the new congregation. Through the kindness of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scranton and their general superior, Mother Cyril, the first three candidates were educated. In September 1908, the yet-to-be approved congregation opened its first mission, Sacred Heart Slovak School in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Finally, on September 11, 1909, the congregation dedicated to the Apostles of the Slavs received Papal approbation and the first three members, Sister Mary Mihalik, Sister Joseph Bartek and Sister Emmanuel Pauly pronounced their vows in Scranton. Following the first profession, twelve additional young Slovak women applied for admittance into the new congregation dedicated to teaching the children of the Slovak immigrants. The rest is history.

At their peak, the congregation staffed schools in over 30 Slovak parishes in many dioceses in the East and Midwest. Over the past century, the Cyrlites, as the community is known, have enjoyed a rich ministry of Christian education, service to the aged and infirm, the promotion of the tradition of music as well as special dedication to the preservation of Slovak culture and heritage. Our Slovak Catholic fraternal have always enjoyed a close collaboration with the ministry of these consecrated women religious. We congratulate Sister Linda Marie Bolinski, the current General Superior, as well as all the Sisters as they begin their centennial year observance. We pray that God will bless the Sisters in the years ahead as they continue to mirror their heavenly patrons, our great evangelizers, SS. Cyril and Methodius.

15th Mother of Sorrows Pilgrimage in North Jackson, Oh. on Sept. 14

The Youngstown, Ohio chapter of the Slovak

Catholic Federation will host its 15th annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Mother of Sorrows, patroness of Slovakia and the Slovak people, on Sunday, September 14 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in North Jackson, Oh. The shrine, designated as a place of pilgrimage with all appropriate rights and privileges, is located at 2757 Lipkey Road. The annual day-long event recalls the time-honored traditions of pilgrimage to the great Marian shrines of Sastin and Levoca in Slovakia.

The program begins at 3 p.m. with the recitation of the Rosary and the opportunity for reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation in both English and Slovak. At 4 p.m., the concelebrated Slovak Mass will feature the Most Rev. A. Edward Pevec, retired Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland as principal celebrant and homilist. Priests of Slovak ancestry from the area will concelebrate. Prior to the celebration of Mass, the singing of our traditional Slovak Marian hymns will take place in the shrine church.

Following the liturgy, dinner will be served in the shrine's dining hall. Dinner tickets are \$14.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children under the age of 12. For dinner reservations contact members of the Slovak Catholic Federation or call the Rev. George Franko, chaplain of the chapter, at tel. (330)782-9126. Area Sokol members are invited to come and spend an enjoyable day of prayer and good fellowship as we honor the Mother of God under her title of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Foundation disagrees with Commission's decision to close historic Slovak church

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. has served as the spiritual, cultural and fraternal center of the city's Slovak community for more than a century. The parish was founded in 1895 and its illustrious pastor for 33 years was the noted Rev. Joseph Murgas, a gifted Slovak Catholic leader and pioneer in wireless telegraphy. During his pastorate a majestic neo gothic church was blessed and dedicated in 1908. An accomplished artist himself, Father Murgas created one of the most beautiful churches not only in Wilkes-Barre but among the nearly 250 Slovak churches in America. Many of his own works adorn the interior of the beautiful church.

Since its founding, Sacred Heart has ranked among the most important Slovak parishes. It was in Sacred Heart Church that the Slovak Catholic Federation was founded in 1911. All of our Slovak Catholic fraternal have hosted various gatherings in the historic church. Exactly a century ago in September 1908, the parish opened a parochial school with three nuns of the not yet officially approbated community of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius as its teachers. Over the years, the faith community of Sacred Heart has grown and flourished. Following Father Murgas's death, other priests have diligently served the parish including, Msgr. John Sobota, Rev. Michael Bernat, Msgr. Francis J. Beeda, Rev. John Polednak, Rev. Joseph Ziobro, Rev. Thomas Hitchko and others right up to the current pastor, Msgr. John Sempa.

With changing demographics, a decline in the city's population along with the shortage of priests available, the Diocese of Scranton closed the neighboring territorial parish of St. John the Evangelist and the people of Sacred Heart welcomed their neighbors into their faith community. About two years ago, the neighboring Church of St. Stanislaus, which served the Polish community, was added to the faith community.

The Diocese of Scranton established the Call to Holiness and Mission Project which was to seek input regarding further mergers of parishes in the diocese. The Planning Commission of the Diocese of Scranton has recommended to change the worship site of Sacred Heart/St. John's Parish to St. Stanislaus Kostka Church. The Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Foundation,

(Continued on page 10)



The Word of God ...

Gospel for the Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year - August 31

Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Gospel for the Twenty-third Sunday of the Year - September 7

Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Promoting U.S.-Slovak cultural exchange

Loretta Ekoniak elected to the Youngstown Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities Board

The Youngstown - Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities of Youngstown, Ohio elected Loretta Ekoniak to its Board of Directors to fill the vacancy of Mary Babnic who passed away in June. (Mary served on the board since the group's founding in 1991). Loretta was recommended by Board Secretary, Bernie Demechko, who has worked with Loretta on various Slovak cultural activities.

Loretta worked as a Registered Medical Technologist for twenty years. She then received her Master's Degree in Secondary Education teaching Chemistry, Biology and Environmental Science at Poland Seminary High School for 15 years before retiring. Since then, she has devoted her volunteer efforts to Slovak activities, serving as co-editor of the newsletter of the American Slovak Cultural Association of the Mahoning Valley and as a member of the Parish Council at St. Matthias Slovak Church where she also serves as lector at the Slovak Masses. This summer, Loretta and her son, Michael attended Slovak classes at the University of Pittsburgh. Michael is currently in Modra, Slovakia, to further his Slovak language abilities at Comenius University. Upon his return, he will continue graduate studies in Computer Engineering at Virginia Tech.

Loretta and her family visited Slovakia and became acquainted with relatives residing in the Zemplin and Spisska Nova Ves area (what a coincidence!).

In addition to their son, Michael, Loretta and her husband, Michael,

Sr. have a son, Nathaniel, who is a Computer Engineer residing in Seattle, Washington. The Ekoniaks enjoy membership in Assembly 108 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol in Youngstown. We congratulate Sister Ekoniak on her election to the Board of the Youngstown-Spisska Nova Ves Sister Cities. The group promotes so many wonderful exchange programs which encourage U.S.-Slovak cultural, educational and healthcare exchange. Loretta beautifully mirrors the high ideals of fraternal outreach which are a credit to the fraternal benefit system in general and Slovak fraternalism in particular.



We thank another wonderful Youngstown Slovak fraternal activist, Bernie Demechko for sharing this story with our readers.

Group 3 News

Bay State Sokols and Sokolky are reminded to mark their calendars for Saturday evening, September 20 for the gala celebration of the 100th anniversary of Assembly 28 of East Douglas, Mass. The celebration will be held at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall on Route 16 in Douglas, Mass. Assembly 28, founded in 1908, is the oldest Sokol lodge in Massachusetts. Complete details of the celebration will be forthcoming. Call Supreme Assistant Physical Director Roger J. Manyak at tel. (508)476-2668.

Fall Film Festival

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will again host its traditional fall film festival. The first Slovak movie to be featured "She Kept Crying for the Moon," will be shown on Saturday, September 27 at the Slovak Civic Federation Hall located at 1200 Hodgkiss Street, Northside, Pittsburgh, Pa. beginning at 7 p.m.

As an added treat prior to the film, chicken dinner will be served Paprikash style will be available. The movie is free however the cost of the dinner is \$8.00 per person. No movie tickets are required, however dinner reservations are necessary. For dinner reservations call the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association office at tel. (888)SLOVAKS - (412) 531-2990. An enjoyable evening is assured.

Subsequent films to be shown during the Fall Slovak Film Festival include the feature "Sweet Troubles" a comedy about a bachelor who becomes an easy prey to his boss, his mother and women eager to marry him. This film will be shown on Wednesday, October 15 at the Brashear Association located on Sarah Street on Pittsburgh's South Side beginning at 6:45 p.m. The final film in the festival, "Night Riders," a wild west shoot-out that takes place at the Slovak Polish Border. This film will be shown on Saturday, November 1 at the Mount Lebanon Public Library beginning at 2 p.m.

Annual "Mig Matras" Golf Outing on Oct. 4

Assembly 25 of Perryopolis, Pa. is pleased to announce that its annual "Mig Matras" golf outing is set for Saturday, October 4th at the Duck Hollow Golf Course in Uniontown, Pa. This year's tournament is open to all Sokol members and their guests. This year's format, as in the past, will be a blind scramble with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. All golfers are to register at 9 a.m. Cost for the event which includes skill awards, snack at the turn, beverages throughout and a concluding awards buffet dinner is \$65.00 per person. For reservations, please contact Bob Anthony at tel. (724) 322-4923 or Clarence "Buff" Checton at (412) 691-4483 to enter your foursome. The deadline for entering is September 22.

In addition to our Assembly 25 golfers, we extend an invitation to our Brother golfers from Assembly 16 of Pittsburgh to join us on the links. The golf course has recently been renovated and will provide the ideal venue for this year's fraternal competition. An enjoyable day is assured in the best traditions of Perryopolis Sokol fellowship and good sportsmanship.

Zdar Boh!
Michael T. Matras
President, Assembly 25

Introducing the Members of Our Board of Directors 2008-2011

- Dennis J. Zifcak Chairperson of Supreme Auditors

Dennis Joseph Zifcak is a native of Whitinsville, Mass. where he was born December 18, 1945, son of the late Francis and Mary Gonsorcik. He has four siblings, and all are Sokol members.

He was named after his aunt, Sister Mary Dennis, who was a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius in Danville, Pa. He returned the honor and chose the confirmation name, Cyril. Dennis was graduated from Douglas Memorial High School in Douglas, Mass.

Shortly after starting his college years, Dennis was drafted into the United States Army. While in the service, he completed his undergraduate degree in Aeronautical Engineering and Management. He later received his Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California. He left active duty in the late 1970s but remained active in the National Guard and began his career in Human Resources.

His last civilian position, before retiring, was as Director of Global Benefits for EMC Corporation, a \$12 billion enterprise date storage company. His primary specialization was in the analysis, design, development, funding arrangement and implementation of worldwide employee benefits plans. Dennis implemented benefit cost containment programs that not only improved benefits, but saved \$41.9 million over five years. In this capacity, he traveled the world to eighteen countries spanning the Americas, Europe, the Middle East and the Orient. He developed multi-national and international pooling and funding arrangements, employee communications programs, and innovative approaches to benefits while reducing overall costs. He implemented the "first of its" kind cafeteria style plan for Germany, Italy and France.

His parents enrolled him in the Slovak Catholic Sokol shortly after birth and he has been involved for many years in his home Assembly 28 located in East Douglas, Mass. He recently passed the baton as president of Group 3 "Rev. Edmund Mochak" after sixteen years. At the 29th National Convention in Orlando, Fla. in 2003, Brother Zifcak was elected Chairperson of Supreme Auditors. He was reelected to this position at our latest, 30th National Convention in Las Vegas in 2007. In the best traditions of fraternal outreach, he is active in local shelters and food kitchens as well as the Central Massachusetts Veterans Shelter in Worcester, Mass.

Shortly after 9/11, Brother Dennis decided it was time to smell the roses and retired from both his civilian and military careers. While in the service, he obtained the rank of Colonel and was awarded the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star for Valor, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with 29 Oak Leaf Clusters, as well as numerous other awards.

Brother Dennis currently resides in Oxbridge, Mass. He is very proud of his two children, Brian and Donna Hardy and their two spouses, Mindy and Scott. He recently became a grandfather for the first time on July 12, 2008. His new grandson, Kevin has been enrolled as a member of Assembly 28, continuing a four-generation Sokol tradition. His hobbies include golf, traveling, gardening, cooking and helping those less fortunate.

Group 14 fund-raiser

Group 14 "St. Francis of Assisi" of Pittsburgh is currently in the midst of a fund-raiser in support of its sports program. They are hosting a June-October Lottery. Tickets are \$20.00 each. The Drawing will be held on Thanksgiving Day and will be based on the Pennsylvania Lottery.

The winner will receive

\$17,000 in cash. The seller of the winning ticket receives \$300.00. To date a number of tickets have already been sold, however, we invite our area brother and sister Sokols and Sokolky to assist us by purchasing these lottery tickets. For ticket information, contact Group 14 President Kathy Watkins at tel. (412) 257-9944 or email kathyw626@comcast.net.

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.

Wreath 22 Sokolka

Ann Kubis Kolski to note 80th Birthday

Ann (Kubis) Kolski, a long-time member of Wreath 22 in Pittsburgh, Pa. celebrates her 80th birthday on September 22. Ann is the daughter of the late Katarina Marsalek and Michael Kubis who emigrated to Pittsburgh from the Spis region of Slovakia in the early years of the 20th century. Our Pittsburgh native married Joseph Kolski at the former St. Matthew's Slovak Church located on the city's south side in 1947. Ann was an active member of St. Matthew's before its closing. Her husband passed away in 1999. Their marriage was blessed with two children, son, David Kolski and his wife, Mary who currently reside in Baldwin, Pa. and daughter, Michele Wecks and husband, Richard of Palm Harbor, Fla. Ann also has four grandchildren, Nicole and Richard Wecks and Christopher and Daniel Kolski.



Our Sister Ann will be honored at a luncheon on September 21. Mass will be celebrated for Ann's intention on September 23 in St. Wendelin Church in Pittsburgh. We thank Ann's sister, Helen Danchik for sharing this information with our readers. Our congratulations and prayerful best wishes go out to our Sister Ann on this milestone in her very fruitful life. May God continue to bless you with good health and happiness for many years to come. Happy birthday and Zdar Boh!

Make sure your lodge is represented

Group Annual Meetings Set

Group 1 "Msgr. Stephen J. Krasula" - This year's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, October 26 in New York City. The meeting will be called to order at 10 a.m. in St. John Nepomucene Parish Social Hall, 406 East 67th Street off First Avenue in Manhattan. At 11 a.m. the delegates will attend the Slovak Mass in the church celebrated for the living and deceased members of Group 1. Following the liturgy the delegates will return to the parish hall for a luncheon and the conclusion of the annual meeting. Hosting this year's annual meeting will be Assembly 182 of New York City. For additional details, call the Group Secretary Dan Tanzone at home in the evenings at tel. (914) 963-7755 or in the office at (973)777-4010. We hope to have all lodges representative at this year's annual meeting where we will finalize our fraternal calendar for the coming year.

Zdar Boh!
John D. Pogorelec, Esq.
President
Daniel F. Tanzone
Secretary

Group 2 "Rev. Stephen Panik" - Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 28 in Stratford, Conn. The day begins with participation (in a body) at the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Name of Jesus Church located at 1950 Barnum Avenue. The pastor of the parish, the Rev. Andrew Marus will celebrate the liturgy for the living and deceased members of Group 2. Following the liturgy, our meeting will be called to order by President Eileen S. Wilson at the church's Parish Center. Delegate forms and all information pertinent to the meeting will be mailed to all Assemblies and Wreaths by our secretary, to be received no later than Monday, September 1. A reminder to all Group officers as well as Assemblies and Wreaths that your annual report are due for the meeting. In keeping with our Care and Share project, we ask that all annual meeting participants bring non-perishable food items which will be given to the Holy Name of Jesus Food Pantry. We look forward to 100% participation from All Assemblies and Wreaths, and a productive meeting which will benefit our membership and organization.

Zdar Boh!
Eileen S. Wilson
President
Darlene Musial
Secretary

Group 3 "Rev. Edmund Mochak" - This year's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, September 28. The meeting will be called to order at 10 a.m. at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Hall located on Route 16 in Douglas, Mass. Coffee and Danish will be served. We hope to see representatives from all our lodges belonging to our Group. This is an important meeting to plan our events and fundraisers for the coming fraternal year and input from our members will insure their success.

Zdar Boh!
J. Kevin Conway
President

Christine Manyak
Secretary

Group 4 "Bishop Stefan Moyzes" - This year's annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 20 in Franklin, Wis. Our meeting will be held at the Franklin Public Library, located at 9151 West Loomis Road. The meeting room will be open at 10:30 a.m. and the meeting will be called order promptly at 11 a.m. Delegate forms, directions to the meeting facility, as well as other information will be mailed to all our Group officers as well as to all Assemblies and Wreaths belonging to Group 4. All Wreaths and Assemblies are reminded that we need your input to better our Group 4. We ask that every lodge please make every effort to attend this meeting. An enjoyable fraternal gathering is assured.

Zdar Boh!
Tony L. Scuglik
President
Gloria A. Scuglik
Secretary

Group 6 "Msgr. Andrew Hlinka" - This year's annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 12. Our meeting will be held at The Coalbarron Restaurant, 7606 Nashville Pike on Route 40 outside Uniontown, Pa. Our meeting begins at 1 p.m. and a luncheon will be served. In order to make the necessary reservations, those planning to attend should call tel. (724)736-4032. We hope to have all lodges belonging to Group 6 represented at this meeting.

Zdar Boh!
Anna Mae Warnick
President
Elaine Andras
Secretary

Group 10 "Rev. Francis Sasinek" - Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 28 in Bethlehem, Pa. The program begins with our attendance at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at the Church of SS. Cyril and Methodius located at 617 Pierce Street. The Chaplain of our Group, the Rev. Msgr. Michael J. Chaback, S.T.D., will celebrate the liturgy for the living and deceased members of Group 10. Following the liturgy, we will gather at the Best Western Hotel (formerly the Holiday Inn) located at the intersection of Routes 512 and 22 where we will enjoy a delicious luncheon. Following the luncheon, our president will call the meeting to order. Delegate forms and information have been mailed to all Assemblies and Wreaths belonging to Group 10. Let us hope to have 100% representation from all our lodges as we plan our fraternal calendar for the coming year.

Zdar Boh!
George J. Kostelnik
President
Ann Marie Motko
Secretary

Group 11 "St. John Nepomucene" - This year's annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 12 in Minneapolis, Minn. Hosts for this year's meeting will be Assembly 34 and Wreath 47. We

will attend the 9 a.m. Mass at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, located at 13th Ave. & 2nd Street N.E. The meeting will be called to order at 10 a.m. in the Father George Dargay Memorial Hall. Coffee and rolls will be available before the meeting and lunch will be served at the conclusion of the meeting. All delegates and guests from Minneapolis, Duluth, Superior and Ironwood are requested to register with the Group Secretary by October 5.

Zdar Boh!
David J. Genosky
President
James T. Genosky
Secretary

Save the Date

The annual Benefit for St. Andrew Svorad Abbey in Cleveland is scheduled for Sunday, November 2, 2008 at Assumption of the B.V.M. parish in Broadview Heights, Oh. Festivities begin with a concelebrated Mass at 12:15 p.m. in the church located at 9183 Broadview Road. Cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, entertainment along with a Slovak auction will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. This year's benefit will honor Abbot Clement Zeleznik, O.S.B. on his retirement as head of the abbey and as a welcome for the recently elected Abbot Christopher Schwartz, O.S.B. Catering will be provided by Tom's Country Place. Ticket prices begin at \$65.00 for an individual ticket. Additional sponsorships including a \$100.00 "Honor a Monk" level are available. For additional information on this year's benefit, contact Marie A. Golias at tel. (216) 228-8179 or Bill Andrews at (216) 721-5300, ext. 252. An enjoyable afternoon is assured.

Slovak language classes in the Baltimore area

The Czech and Slovak Heritage Association is pleased to announce that classes in both Slovak and Czech will be offered beginning this September. The Slovak classes begin on Saturday, September 6 at the Maryland School for the Blind located at 3501 Taylor Avenue in Parkville, Maryland. Language teachers include Dolores Zajickova Gentes, Natalie Karlinsky, Mary Lou Walker and Iva Zichova. The language school is open to anyone - elementary students to elders - interested in learning about the Czech and Slovak languages, history and culture.

For additional information on the new semester of Slovak or Czech language instruction, call Lois Hybl, language school coordinator at tel. (410) 243-1710 or e-mail: LHybl@verizon.net.

Slovak Mass in Chicago

With the arrival of a new priest from Slovakia, the Rev. Marek Sitar, a regular schedule of Masses celebrated in Slovak will begin in Chicago. Mass is celebrated in Slovak every Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Church of St. Genevieve located at 4835 West Altgeld Street in center Chicago. The new priest was sent by Archbishop Jan Sokol of Trnava who is in charge of ministry to Slovaks living outside Slovakia.

Celebrating Sokol fraternalism and fellowship

Annual Group 17 Family Fun Day End of Summer Picnic on Sept. 21 in Boardman, Oh.

Group 17 "Rev. Francis Skutil" of Youngstown, Ohio will host its annual Family Fun Day End of Summer Picnic on Sunday, September 21 at the Boardman Park Ex-Servicemen's Pavilion located on Route 224 in Boardman, Oh. Festivities begin at 10 a.m. and will continue until 8 p.m. An enjoyable day has been planned and we look forward to seeing a good turnout of our Sokol families from across the Mahoning Valley at this year's gathering which for the first time will be held as a sort of end of summer picnic. The weather is still warm and the summer spirit is very much alive.



All Sokol members belonging to our various Assemblies and Wreaths are welcome to attend a full day of activities and fun for every member of the family. Pizza, games for children and adults with prizes will be provided. Members are to bring their own supply of food and beverages. Glass bottles and pets are not permitted.

Boardman Park has much to offer: Bocce, tennis, volleyball, baseball, Kids Town, Tots Town as well as scenic walking paths are just few of the many attractions awaiting our Sokols and Sokolky. The picnic committee is currently planning fun for all ages and if it's hot, plan to get wet! As always, there will be plenty of traditional Group 17 Sokol fellowship and fraternalism for all to enjoy.

For additional details on this year's picnic, feel free to contact Edith Babik at tel. (330) 782-9555 or Nancy Kropolinsky (330) 793-6061. We look forward to seeing a great turnout for our End of Summer Picnic.

Zdar Boh!
Nancy Kropolinsky
Group 17 Picnic Committee

New England Fraternal Congress to offer awards

The New England Fraternal Congress (NEFC) which represents fraternalists in the six New England states is pleased to announce that it will again offer \$500 scholarship grants to deserving students. These grants are available to students in their sophomore, junior or senior year in college or graduate school. Any member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol residing in any of the New England States may apply for these scholarship grants. For an application which includes guidelines and procedures, contact Marion Varga, chairperson of the scholarship committee, 699 Wormwood Hill Road, Storrs-Mansfield, Conn. 06268.

In addition to the scholarship grants, the NEFC will select their annual Family of the Year who will be honored at this year's annual meeting scheduled for Nov. 7-8 in Rockland, Mass. For an application for this award, write: Joseph Goda, chairperson, 85 Valleyview Road, Stratford, Conn. 06614.

The NEFC will also honor an individual member of a fraternal society as its Fraternalist of the Year for 2008. For an application for this award, contact Serge Beaudoin, chairman, 122 Rustic Oak Drive, Southington, Conn. 06489. Deadline for the completion of all applications for any of the above grants is September 15, 2008. A stamped, self-addressed envelope would be appreciated.

Any member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol residing in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island or Vermont may apply for any of the above awards. Members of our organization have been recipients of past awards of the New England Fraternal Congress. We therefore encourage our members to apply.

Zdar Boh!
Eileen S. Wilson
Chair, Education & Programs Committee, New England Fraternal Congress

Michigan Fraternalist of the Year Award

The Michigan Fraternal Congress is pleased to announce again its Fraternalist of the Year Award. The honor will be bestowed on a Michigan Fraternalist who is a member of a fraternal benefit society and has demonstrated dedication to fraternalism by participating in volunteer acts of service. Any member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol residing in Michigan may be nominated for the award.

The award presentation will take place during the 2008 annual meeting of the Michigan Fraternal Congress which is scheduled for October 2-3 at the Odawa Casino Resort in Petroskey, Mich. The honoree will be guest of the Michigan Fraternal Congress. An engraved medallion will be presented to the honoree. In

addition, the Michigan Fraternal Congress will present a donation in the name of the Fraternalist of the Year to a charitable/nonprofit organization of the honoree's choice. The charity must be a 501.C and have a local office operating in Michigan.

A nomination form is available from the home office. Call Editor Daniel F. Tanzone at tel. (973)777-4010 and a nomination form will be sent. The completed nomination form will then be submitted to Jacquelynn Villareal, chairperson of the Michigan Fraternal Congress Fraternalist of the Year Committee. We encourage our Michigan Sokol activists to consider nominating an individual for this award.

What's making headlines in our ancestral homeland



News and Views from Slovakia...

Solzhenitsyn's works were widely read in Czecho-Slovakia as 'Samizdats'

The works of Russian writer and Nobel Prize winner, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who died on August 3 in Russia at age 89, were widely read entering the former Communist Czecho-Slovakia in the form of 'samizdats' (clandestinely-copied texts), Slovak political analyst Miroslav Kusy told TASR on August 4.

Kusy succeeded in obtaining a samizdat of Solzhenitsyn's famous book about the Soviet prison camp system: "The Gulag Archipelago," which he still has. He noted that during the "thaw" period leading up to 1968, some of Solzhenitsyn's works were actually published in Czecho-Slovakia, such as his well-known novel, "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich" for example.

According to Kusy, Solzhenitsyn was a hero of the anti-communist resistance, fighting under the full control of the Soviet regime with the weapons of literature.

"He did a great deal of work while writing "The Gulag Archipelago". He himself survived hell in the Gulag, where he was sent because of his literary work and his criticism of Soviet conditions," said Kusy.

"Solzhenitsyn was a Russian patriot, and he strived for the return of Great Russia. He wanted to revive the idea of Russian patriotism, beaten and marked by the Stalinist cult," said Kusy.

Analyst says Slovakia's economy won't slow down within the next 2-3 years

There are only moderate signs that Slovakia's economy is becoming overheated, while there won't be any slowdown in economic growth within the next two or three years, Slovenska Sportelna bank analyst Michal Musak told TASR on August 5.

Slovakia won't follow in the footsteps of Latvia and Estonia, which are currently experiencing a significant slowdown in their economic growth following a boom in recent years, said Musak.

Despite some similarities with the Baltic economies, Slovakia is in better financial condition at the moment. The country's economy is recording a slower increase in credits, balanced economic growth, and a considerably lower deficit, while the two aforementioned countries have seen a rapid growth in credit in recent years.

"That led to a significant rise in investment and the consumption of goods and services that the local economies weren't able to produce, so they had to import a considerable amount," said Musak.

As Slovakia is catching up with the eurozone in terms of prices, and the final Koruna-Euro changeover rate has been fixed, inflation should be higher in Slovakia than in the eurozone after the country adopts the Euro on January 1, 2009, said the analyst.

If interest rates charged by Slovakia's banks are brought in line with those in the eurozone, credit growth will probably accelerate, inducing the economy to overheat before cooling down later, added Musak.

Amnesty International asks Slovak President to promote human rights

Amnesty International (AI) Slovakia has sent a letter to President Ivan Gasparovic asking him to express his support for human rights at meetings with Chinese representatives when he visits China to attend the Olympic Games, AI Slovakia director Branislav Tichy told TASR on August 5.

"Standing up in support of human rights isn't a political gesture, but the propagation of humanity. The Olympic Games in Beijing are a great opportunity for China and the

world to show respect for human rights," said Tichy.

According to AI, the Chinese have not only broken promises made in 2001, vis-a-vis improving the observance of human rights in the country, but have made the situation even worse in many respects.

"All expressions of dissent are punished harshly by the Chinese regime. The persecution of critics of the regime, civil-rights activists and minorities continues. By suppressing unregistered Churches and religious groups, China violates religious freedoms. Hundreds of political prisoners have been locked up in Chinese jails, including about 130 participants in the protests on Tiananmen Square that were bloodily crushed in 1989. More than half a million people are in labor camps. The country is the world leader in terms of executions - international organizations estimate that these exceed 7,000 per year," stated AI Slovakia.

European Commission asks Slovakia to explain new road-toll system

The European Commission (EC) has asked Slovakia to explain the rules of the final stage of the newly proposed electronic road-toll system tender (like E-zpass in the U.S.), Public Procurement office (UVO) spokesperson Helena Fialova announced on August 1.

"The EC is asking us to explain the proceedings of the National Highway Company (NDS) and UVO concerning the course of the tender," said Fialova. The EC's request was sent to UVO on July 7, and UVO and NDS sent a joint reply on July 31.

According to Fialova, UVO stated that the tender documents didn't state any obligation to submit certificates of components used earlier than the realization phase.

"UVO therefore disagreed with NDS's view that applicants are obliged to present certificates in their bids," said Fialova.

UVO agreed with the claims of excluded bidders participating in the tender, leaving only one contender - the SanToll consortium. The three unsuccessful applicants - Kapsch TrafficCom, Slovkapass and ToSy - took legal action against NDS's decision on July 14.

The tender remains open, therefore, and Transport Minister Lubomir Vazny has already conceded that the electronic-toll system won't be introduced beginning on January 1, 2009 as originally planned.

Slovak citizenship granted to 229 foreigners to date

Slovak state citizenship has been granted to 229 foreigners thus far in 2008, including 106 men and 123 women, the Foreign Police Office of the Interior Ministry announced on August 1.

The highest number of successful applicants came from Ukraine (91), followed by the Czech Republic (20), Vietnam (16), Serbia or Montenegro (13) and Romania (12).

Citizenship allows holders to participate in the political, economic and cultural life of the state.

A total of 1,117 foreigners acquired Slovak state citizenship in 2007, with the highest numbers coming from Ukraine (625), the Czech Republic (84), Serbia or Montenegro (72), Romania (55), Vietnam (51) and Russia (28).

According to the law on state citizenship, foreigners can obtain Slovak citizenship after eight uninterrupted years of residence in the country. Foreigners married to Slovak citizens become eligible after five years of marriage. Applicants also have to demonstrate a certain level of Slovak language skills.

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

Newest political party in Slovakia selects presidential candidate

Representatives of Slovakia's newest political party, the Conservative Democrats of Slovakia (KDS), who have chosen party member Frantisek Miklosko as KDS's candidate for next year's presidential elections, felt that it was their duty to offer something that was missing vis-a-vis the existing candidates, KDS chairman Vladimir Palko told TASR on July 29.

Palko pointed out that Miklosko didn't want to stand for the post, and that he is simply carrying out his duty by "picking up the banner of Christian values from the dust."

KDS doesn't officially have any Members of Parliament, meaning that it will have to collect 15,000 signatures in support of Miklosko's candidacy. This task has been launched this month.

Miklosko doesn't view his candidacy as assisting the reelection bid of incumbent President Ivan Gasparovic. At the same time, Palko claimed that it is misleading to view the election as dismissal proceedings against Gasparovic. He reproached the main opposition parties for what he described as their confrontational policy. According to him, the electorate expects politicians to come up with solutions to problems instead.

KDS is the newest party on the Slovak political scene, as it was only registered on July 22 of this year. Former interior minister Vladimir Palko became its chairman on July 23. The nucleus of the party is made up of four Members of Parliament - Palko, Miklosko, Rudolf Bauer and Pavol Minarik - who left the Christian Democratic Movement (KDH) in February of this year.

Farmers want lower VAT on basic foodstuffs

The Central Steering Committee for Agriculture and Regional Development is proposing that the VAT on ten basic foodstuffs should be lowered, the committee's chairman Miroslav Jurena, who is also a Member of Parliament and former agriculture minister, said on July 30.

In order to materialize the measure, 3 billion Slovak Crowns (\$160 million) from the state budget would be necessary.

"We don't view it as a vain attempt. We want it to help consumers," said Jurena on behalf of the agricultural produce and foodstuffs producers. "Slovakia's macroeconomic

(Continued on page 18)



The Slovak capital of Bratislava is home to many churches. The tower of the Franciscan Church, dedicated to the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is shown above. The early gothic structure dates from the 13th century and is the oldest church in the area of the city known as "the Old Town." During the 150-year period of the Turkish invasions when Bratislava, then known as Pressburg, served as the capital of Hungary, following the coronation of a new king he would honor a group of noblemen by investing them as Knights of the Golden Spur in this church. Attached to the north wall of the main church is the Chapel of St. John the Evangelist added in the 14th century which is modelled after the famous Church of Sainte Chapelle in Paris. Attached to the church is the Franciscan Friars Minor Friary, the oldest in Slovakia.

News and Views from Slovakia...

(Continued from page 7)

growth provides scope for such a positive move," he added.

According to him, the measure might help increase food consumption, with Vladimir Chovan of the Slovak Association of Milk and Cheese Producers concurring with Jurena.

According to Chovan, the rise in milk prices during the first quarter of 2008 has resulted in a 14-percent decrease in milk and cheese consumption, with retailers and high prices to blame for the decrease.

National bank says firming of Koruna should be reflected in prices next year

The recent considerable strengthening of the Slovak Koruna (Crown) should have a gradual dampening effect on the employment market, the trade balance and overall economic productivity, National Bank of Slovakia's vice governor Viliam Ostrozlik said following the NBS bank board session on July 29.

It is mainly in 2009 - the first year of the Euro adoption - that this should be reflected in the prices of goods and services, however. "Prices should also be influenced by simplified trade exchanges and price comparisons," said Ostrozlik.

The bank board members also pointed to risks relating to future macroeconomic developments, especially when it comes to the prices of energy and food.

There will be a need to monitor the relationship between salaries and labor productivity in individual branches, and salary developments in the public sector," added Ostrozlik.

NBS decided on July 29 to keep its key interest rates unchanged. The decision left the key two-week report rate at 4.15 percent, while the overnight rates remained at 5.75 percent for refinancing operations and at 2.25 percent for draining excess market liquidity.

The key NBS rate has been in line with that of the European Central Bank (ECB) since early July, when the ECB decided to increase its key interest rate to 4.25 percent.

Michal Martikan wins gold medal in Slalom competition at the Olympics

Michal Martikan, who won the gold medal in the men's C1 Canoe Single Slalom competition at the Beijing 2008 Olympics on August 12, confirmed his reputation as a reliable medal winner: Atlanta 1996 - gold, Sydney 2000 - silver, Athens 2004 - silver, Beijing 2008 - gold.

At the August 12 final run, Martikan's combined time of 176.65 seconds was nearly 2 seconds better than Britain's David Florence, who took the silver medal. Robin Bell of Australia took the third place bronze medal.

"It's an outstanding feeling, but after the Athens experience, I'll wait for the medal to be put on my neck first," he said shortly after the competition, smiling, however, knowing that no referee will take the gold away from him this time. (In Athens, after the second run, it appeared that Martikan had won the Olympic title, but after examining the video review, referees decided to penalize him 2 seconds for touching a gate, therefore, he ended up in second place only 12 hundredths of a point behind France's Tony Estanguet, editor's note).

Martikan's semifinal run wasn't ideal. "Just after the start, when the water suddenly changed before the fourth gate, I managed to go through only a wafer-thin margin. It threw me to the rod, and I had to press in the paddle to erase the loss. Nevertheless, when adding the positives and negatives, the run was indeed very quick," said Martikan.

According to him, the track - with 21 gates - wasn't very difficult. "It was quite easy and offered quite a lot of options. But on a simple track, you have to solve some snares as well. I won't complain about the track actually, as it's brought me golden joy," he added.

Martikan is ranked as the world's no. 1 canoeist by the International Canoe Federation, and also the best man in his sport over the last 12 years.

Fico says package of social measures for 2009 to cost a half billion dollars

The package of social measures the Slovak government is expected to approve on August 20 at its first post-summer holiday session will require additional funding from the state budget of some 11 billion Slovak Crowns (\$520 million), Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico told journalists on August 7.

Fico doesn't expect any problems regarding the approving of the measures, as the respective changes have also been discussed with the Finance Ministry, and are supported by all three parties of the Coalition. "That's why I think that not only in government, but later in parliament we can expect a smooth course for the approval of this legislation (which will take effect January 1, 2009)."

A part of the changes being prepared will also be a shift of the values of pensions beginning January 1, 2009. The pensions are preliminary scheduled to be increased by 6.75 percent, and they will be paid in the first month of the new year.

As for the minimum wage, which currently stands at 8,100 Slovak Crowns (\$375) a month, it could increase more dynamically than the current legal enactment suggests. According to it, if the social partners don't agree, the minimum wage increases automatically on the basis of a set formula. Based on it, an increase to 8,690 Slovak Crowns per month (\$400) would be carried out. However, the government will push the social partners to increase that figure to 8,900-9,000 Slovak Crowns (\$425).

"In the area of support for young families with children, we decided to go over the framework of agreements made at the Coalition Council session, and to provide the contribution not only when the second child is born, but also for the third child. As of January 1, 2009, families will be entitled to a government contribution amounting to 25,000 Slovak Crowns (\$1,100) regardless of whether it is a first, second or third child being born," continued Fico.

While Telecom salaries declined they're still the highest in Slovakia

Average monthly salaries in June rose in all sectors of society, year-on-year, with the exception of the telecommunications sector, the Statistics Office reported on August 11.

According to the most recent data, the highest year-on-year average monthly salary increase in June was recorded in industry - a 10.2 percent increase over the 2007 figure. Other increases were: in real estate, rentals, business activities and other services - 8.5 percent; in wholesale and in retail - both 8.1 percent; in transport - 6.9 percent; in construction - 6.3 percent; in the sale and maintenance of motor vehicles and in hotels and restaurants - both 5.2 percent; and in postal services - 4.1 percent.

Average salaries in telecommunications fell by 3.4 percent over the 2007 period. Real salaries in industry rose by 5.4 percent, year-on-year in June. Other year-on-year salary increases included: in real estate, rentals, business activities and other services - 3.7 percent; in wholesale and in retail - both 3.3 percent; in transport - 2.2 percent; in construction - 1.6 percent; and in the sale and maintenance of motor vehicles and in hotels and restaurants - both 0.6 percent.

Real salaries in telecommunications fell by 7.6 percent, year-on-year, while those in postal services were down 0.5 percent.

Despite this, the highest average monthly salary in the first six months of 2008 was recorded in telecoms - 48,822 Slovak Crowns (\$2,500). Other average monthly salaries were: in real estate, rentals, business activities and other services - 24,042 Slovak Crowns (\$1,300); in industry - 21,524 Slovak Crowns (\$1,200); in transport 20,726 Slovak Crowns (\$1,150); in wholesale - 20,462 Slovak Crowns (\$1,100); in the sale and maintenance of motor vehicles - 20,097 Slovak Crowns (\$1,000); in postal services - 16,963 Slovak Crowns (\$725); in construction - 15,914 Slovak Crowns (\$700); and in retail - 14,508 Slovak Crowns (\$600). The lowest salaries were paid to employees in hotels and restaurants 10,921 Slovak Crowns a month (\$450).

Compared to the corresponding period last year, the highest rise in average monthly salaries during the first half of 2008 was recorded in postal services - 13.9 percent. Other increases were: in real estate, rentals, business activities and other services - 11.3 percent; in wholesale - 10.5 percent; in retail - 9.5 percent; in industry 8.7 percent; in transport - 8.4 percent; in construction - 7.3 percent; in the sale and maintenance of motor vehicles - 4.8 percent; and in hotels and restaurants - 4.7 percent.

Average salaries in telecommunications fell by 2 percent during the first half of 2007. During the same period, salaries in postal services went up by 9.3 percent. Other increases were: in real estate, rentals, business activities and other services - 6.8 percent; in wholesale - 6 percent; in retail - 5.1 percent; in industry - 4.3 percent; in transport - 4 percent; in construction - 3 percent; in the sale and maintenance of motor vehicles - 0.6 percent; and in hotels and restaurants - 0.5 percent. During the first half of 2007, salaries in telecommunications fell by 6 percent. Additional information may be found on the Statistics

Office's website (www.statistics.sk).

Olympic Torch from Beijing exhibited in Bratislava

One of the most important Olympic symbols - the Olympic torch - is for the first time on exhibit in Slovakia beginning on August 11, Tomas Koci of Omnipublic agency told TASR.

The torch, a symbol of peace, was carried to Beijing by Jozef Pribilinec, Slovak Olympic winner in track from the Soul, Korea Olympics of 1988. As a souvenir, he was given the 1,000-gram on a crystal stand with a logo of the Olympics.

"It was the first time when only the fire, not the whole torch was handed on. That is why we can see it also now at the Polus City Center," according to Koci.

Stefecokova was Slovakia's first medal winner at Beijing Olympics

Zuzana Stefecekova, who became Slovakia's first medalist the Beijing Olympics on August 11 when she won the silver in the women's rap shooting competition, said that she had everything under control in the final.

Stefecokova noted that she knew how her competitors were doing, how many clay pigeons she had shot, and when she had lost the chance to win the gold medal, the silver medal came into view.

"The final shooting was average - it could have been better and it could have been worse. I haven't yet come to terms with how far I managed to go, the emotions will come soon in a much stronger way. At first, right after a successful competition, there isn't much emotion, but the joy may come when I wake up in the morning. I was checking the scores all the time, I knew the rankings, everything was mapped out. And when we had two shots to go, a part of my soul wanted to believe that the gold-winning Finnish competitor would make a mistake. But when she hit her pigeon, all hope that I could overtake her disappeared immediately. At that moment, I was sure that I had won the silver medal," said Stefecekova.

Stefecokova shot 89 clay pigeons in the final. The gold medal went to Finland's Satu Makela-Nummela with 91 hits, while American Corey Cogdell won the bronze medal. The 24-year-old Slovak will receive a reward of 600,000 Slovak Crowns (\$25,000) from the Slovak Olympics Committee for her achievement.

Slovakia garnered a total of 4 medals at the Olympics, three gold and one silver.

Fico pays tribute to Alexander Dubcek and the 40th anniversary of the Prague Spring

In order to mark the 40th anniversary of the so-called Prague Spring and its brutal suppression by the Warsaw Pact forces in August 1968, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico on August 19 presented a memorial letter in tribute to former Czechoslovak leader Alexander Dubcek to Dubcek's son, Pavol.

During the period known as the Prague Spring in 1968, Alexander Dubcek who at the time was serving as the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, and other reformers sought to liberalize the Communist regime, whose goal was to create "socialism with a human face."

Fico noted "I'm paying tribute to a man whose name shines in European political sky" during a special commemorative event held at the Government Office on August 19. The Prime Minister hosted a group of more than 50 personalities who played a significant role in the historic events of 1968.

"I'm expressing my deep admiration for your human bravery. I have in mind your personal sufferings and trials, often on the periphery of society," Fico told his guests.

"We're striving to preserve continuity in Slovakia's life," said Fico, adding that Slovaks all too often try to start again from scratch. The premier noted that Slovakia experienced an unheard-of blossoming during the 1963-1968 period, not only in terms of the democratization process, but also in those of scientific and cultural development.

On August 20, 1968, the Prague Spring was brutally crushed by the Warsaw Pact forces at the behest of the Soviet Union who invaded the country. Dubcek was later removed from office and was not able to return to public life until the Velvet Revolution in 1989 when Communism fell in Czechoslovakia. He died tragically in a car crash in 1992. Had he lived, more than likely he would have become the president of Czechoslovakia. While a staunch Slovak, Dubcek enjoyed great respect and rapport with the Czechs and many feel that under his leadership Czechoslovakia might have survived as a united country.

Most prestigious of U.S. government scholarships

Wreath 2 Sokolka, Kathleen M. Bakarich of Clifton, N.J. awarded Fulbright Scholarship to study in Germany

Kathleen Marie Bakarich of Clifton, N.J. is a very organized, hardworking student who places great emphasis on detail. She is community oriented and has been active at St. Mary's Assumption Slovak parish in Passaic, N.J. where her family has enjoyed membership for four generations. She is our Sokolka of Wreath 2 in Passaic. Her hard work certainly has paid off. Kathleen recently received word that she has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Germany. She left this month for Frankfurt, a European city with high-rise skyscrapers, a stock exchange and renowned cultural and educational institutions. Upon arrival in Germany, she will first attend a six-week language course at the University of Marburg in Marburg, Germany. Following the language study, she begins her studies at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University of Frankfurt where she will conduct research and study international accounting and European Union business. The Fulbright is the most prestigious international scholarship awarded by the United States government. She received her undergraduate degree with a major in accounting this past May from Fairfield University in Connecticut.

Kathleen was featured in a special article by Cecile San Agustin in the August 7 issue of The Beacon, the official publication of the Paterson Diocese.

Responding to the announcement, Kathleen notes "I have always been interested in the international side of business and accounting so I thought this program would be ideal." She credits her studies at the Jesuit-run Fairfield University in helping her prepare for her goals in the business world. While in the honors program there, the university introduced a Fulbright tract in which students conduct research for their senior honors theses in their junior year, making it possible to use that research as a springboard for a Fulbright proposal.

Living abroad is nothing new for Kathleen. During the summer of 2006, she took a few courses in Florence, Italy and traveled during her time there, backpacking through Austria, Italy, France, Germany and England. Studying in Germany will make for a perfect fit for Kathleen. During her four years at Clifton High School, she studied German and had the opportunity to visit Germany.

"I developed an interest in the culture and the language and I visited there on vacation and really enjoyed my time there," she said. "The people are very friendly. It's very clean there and organized. Trains run on time. Germans have a very systematic society. Overall, the culture, atmosphere and the people are engaging. It's a very intellectual place."

Looking ahead to a business career, Frankfurt is the ideal center

of the European business world. The city is the economic center of the European Union and the European Central Bank. With such a combination, Frankfurt was an easy decision for Kathleen to decide where to pursue her Fulbright re-



Kathleen M. Bakarich

search and studies.

Kathleen's parents, Kathleen and Peter Bakarich are very proud of her. Her mother said that she recognized her goals and the steps to try to achieve them. She is patient, well-organized and works well with people. Peter, her father who is an attorney and former chairperson of the Diocese of Paterson's Pastoral Council said, "I'm proud of her. She recognized her goals and the steps to try to achieve them. God has given her abilities and she has made the most of her talents."

As the "baby" of the family, Kathleen is the youngest of four, she believes her parents and older siblings - Peter, Mary and Elizabeth - really influenced her ethic of hard work. "My siblings have been an influence on me. They've all had very successful paths in high school and college and in their careers. They're definitely paved the way for me to follow along," said Kathleen in The Beacon article. "My parents worked hard for us so we can go to college and have successful lives. Anything we needed from them they always took the time to support us."

At Fairfield, Kathleen was active in serving the community. She credits her faith in helping her achieve her goals. "My Catholic upbringing definitely has helped me and influenced me to see the world, help others and create an understanding between cultures," she said.

With the world at her fingertips, Kathleen's ultimate professional goals are to work for a company that would give her the opportunity to work and travel internationally. She hopes to eventually become a CPA and earn her master's degree and possibly become a college professor teaching business. She believes the Fulbright experience will be a great stepping stone to "opening my mind to a new way of looking at things with business

and accounting and just in general every day life of seeing things through a new perspective on how Germans and Europeans treat everyday life. I'll experience life in a different country besides just being a tourist but really be an everyday citizen there," she said.

When she returns from the Fulbright experience in the fall of 2009, she already has a position waiting for her at a public accounting firm in New York City.

Kathleen hails from the 100% Bakarich-Ryaby Sokol family who have been active in Wreath 2 and Assembly 1 in Passaic for generations.

Our congratulations and fraternal best wishes go out to Kathleen at this wonderful time in her life. She is a credit to her faith and to her Slovak heritage. The values she mirrors serve as a wonderful example for all of us. She is a credit not only to her own family but to her extended family, the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Slovak conversation group meets again

After a summer break, the Slovak conversation group sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association will again meet on the first Monday of every month at the Mount Lebanon Public Library in the Mount Lebanon section of Pittsburgh. The first meeting is set for Monday, October 6 from 7 to 8:45 p.m.

The group discusses various topics related to Slovak culture and heritage. The evenings includes videos, show-n-tell, current events and an occasional visitor from Slovakia. They are always interesting opportunities to learn more about our Slovak heritage.

Slovak Radio Hour benefit set for Oct. 4

The annual benefit dinner and dance in support of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Radio Hour is set for Saturday, October 4 at the Slovak Catholic Sokol Club, 2912 East Carson Street, South Side, Pittsburgh, Pa. Festivities begin with a cocktail reception at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the popular Joseph Jurasi Orchestra from New Jersey. For tickets call (412)421-1204.

The benefit supports the popular Slovak Radio Hour which is broadcast every Sunday from 3 to 4 p.m. on WPIT (89.3 AM). Our well-known Sokol members, Rudy and Sue Ondrejco have been hosting the program since 1979. Previously, their radio listeners were within a 100 mile radius until they began broadcasting on the internet. Now they have listeners scattered throughout the U.S. and the entire world. The program features Slovak music, a news update from Slovakia as well as news of the activities of the Slovak community in western Pennsylvania.

National Czech & Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids seeks funds for restoration

The National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library has been dealt a devastating blow as part of the Cedar Rapids, Iowa community, which has experienced a disaster unprecedented in its history. At the crest of the flood on June 13, 2008, the floodwater reached more than eight feet above the floor, leaving silt and muck through-



out the Museum, Immigrant Home, Collections Center and Babi Buresh Center. A dynamic team comprised of staff, board and volunteers were able to remove two semi-trailers full of artifacts and printed materials before the forced evacuation. However, not everything was not removed.

At this point, the museum's President and CEO, Gail Naughton indicated that all damaged collection items are in the process of being prepared for conservation treatment. She indicated that this is just the beginning of a long recovery phase from this overwhelming disaster.

The outpouring of volunteers and offers for help has heartened all associated with the museum while the volunteers, board and staff have worked exhaustively, professional help is needed during the present recovery stage. The museum has insurance for the collection, but the buildings are not insured. The National Czech & Slovak Museum has incurred extraordinary expenses during the cleanup of the site.

Every American of Czech or Slovak ancestry has been proud of the work of this museum. Established in 1995 as the national museum reflecting the Czech and Slovak presence in the United States, it was dedicated in October of that year in the presence of three presidents - U.S. President William J. Clinton, Czech President Vaclav Havel and Slovak President Michal Kovac.

In response to this tragedy in Cedar Rapids, the American Slovak community wants to do its part in assisting in the restoration of this American cultural gem. The Slovak League of America, a civic and cultural federation of Americans of Slovak ancestry to which the five national Slovak fraternal are affiliated, will accept donations to assist in this project. Tax deductible donations made payable to the Slovak League Heritage Foundation are welcome. Send all donations to Slovak League of America, 205 Madison St., Passaic, NJ 07055. Let us do our share to help restore the National Czech & Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



Slovak President Michal Kovac, U.S. President Bill Clinton and Czech President Vaclav Havel at the museum's dedication on October 21, 1995.

BABY SPOONS

JUNE - JULY 2008			
Assembly	No.	Name	
	16	Nolan Kahler	82
	16	Nico Macurak	86
	16	Zachary Cielewich	113
	25	Spencer Anderson	162
	28	Joseph Bolte	
	48	Matthew Cunningham	
	79	Brayden Muldoon	
			Wreath
			79
			Alexander Muldon
			Lucia Yuhaz
			Emma Kratz
			Lily Albright
			Gregory Pogorelec
			Ashlyn Schmidt
			Andrew Peterson
			Amber Radtke
			Jonathan Hub

The 85th Slovak American Day at Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh

(Continued from page 1)

(SHSLH) based in Johnstown, Pa. donated a check for \$500.00 to the PAS Dance Group. Slovak Heritage Society President Susan Kalcik and Treasurer Joseph Palus presented the check to Milenka Feighner, a former SHSLH member, who now belongs to the PAS ensemble and PAS directors John and Angela Lilpachak. The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble is accepting donations to help fund its planned 2009 summer trip to the Detva Slovak Festival in Slovakia. The Detva Festival is Slovakia's preeminent folk festival with ensembles performing from all parts of Slovakia as well as other countries as well.

After the ceremony the PAS Ensemble, attired in the colorful costumes (*kroj*) of Myjava located in western Slovakia.

Another crowd pleaser followed. The Pittsburgh Slovaks, directed by Sue and Rudy Ondrejco, who also host the popu-

lar Sunday Slovak Radio Program then performed. Dressed in a myriad of very colorful and beautiful *kroj*, the Pittsburgh Slovaks put on an impressive display of talent and dancing skill.

Indeed the Pittsburgh area is fortunate to have the Pittsburgh Slovaks and the PAS Ensemble, both fine Slovak folk groups who work so hard to maintain a vibrant Slovak culture in the Pittsburgh area.

This year's Slovak Day featured an array of interesting and colorful displays and exhibits. PAS, the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble, featured a display of children's works on a variety of Slovak cultural topics, including immigration, religion and rituals, holidays, needlecrafts, culinary specialties, entertainment and general information on Slovakia. Maggie Fero and Michael Pacacha displayed some of the results of their ongoing research of documenting information on the history

of Slovak Day in Pittsburgh. When established, Slovak fraternal and local clergy used the event to unite Slovak Americans in the Pittsburgh area, and photos showed some of the large crowds of past Slovak Days, with many dressed in native *kroj* (costume). Originally, Kennywood Park only allowed Slovaks into the park on that day, and people with picnic baskets flocked to the park from neighboring mill and coal mining towns from across southwestern Pennsylvania.

Many individuals deserve recognition for the efforts in making this year's Slovak Day one of the best ever. To be commended are Slovak Day General Chairperson Cecilia Sarocky and the Rev. Joseph Grosko, as well as all those who cooked, set up the colorful exhibits, as well as the many unnamed, generous people who gave of their time and talents in preparing for the occasion. Likewise, the sponsors of the annual Slovak Day observance deserve credit, including the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the National Slovak Society, the First Catholic Slovak Union, the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Association, the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union, the Greek Catholic Union, the Slovak Savings Bank as well as the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Committee. Their financial and moral support, as well as their prayers, helped to make the event something to look forward to each and every year.

Finally, if any of our members is interested in supporting the PAS Ensemble's desire to participate in next summer's Detva Festival in Slovakia, they do so by making checks payable to PAS Folk Ensemble and send same to 1254 Old Concord Road, Monroeville, PA 15146. For additional information on how to help PAS get to Slovakia, feel free to call (412)373-3873. Their cause is well worth our support. A number of Sokol members are part of the PAS Folk Ensemble. PAS deserves our support as they beautifully promote a greater appreciation for Slovak music and dance.

Slovak Mass set at the National Shrine

Mass will be celebrated in Slovak on Sunday, September 7 in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception located at 400 Michigan Avenue N.E. in Washington, D.C. at 11 a.m. The liturgy will be offered in the Crypt Church of the basilica.

The Mass will commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the dedication of the Chapel of Our Mother of Sorrows, Patroness of Slovakia. The chapel, a gift of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the U.S. and Canada on the occasion of its 75th anniversary, was blessed and dedicated on Sept. 4, 1965 by the Apostolic Delegate in the United States, Archbishop Egidio Vagnozzi. The Slovak chapel is one of only two architectural prizes awarded to works of art at the shrine. The public is invited attend the liturgy.

Foundation disagrees with Commission's decision to close historic Slovak church

(Continued from page 4)

Inc. was formed to preserve Sacred Heart Church as the worship site of the parish. This foundation considers the recommendation of the Planning Commission to be ill informed and a poorly researched decision arrived at without sufficient parishioner involvement. In June, the Sacred Heart Foundation had submitted to the Diocese of Scranton and the Reid Group a 16-page dissenting opinion which also contained 25 exhibits and charts detailing finances, statistics, etc. supporting the case for Sacred Heart/St. John's Church as the most logical future site of the Catholic Community of North Wilkes-Barre.

The Sacred Heart Foundation presented its dissenting opinion at a well-attended meeting of parishioners of Sacred Heart/St. John's Church on August 25 at the Ramada Hotel in downtown Wilkes-Barre. This meeting was held prior to the so-called "Parish Conversation" meeting for members of the parish held at St. Stanislaus on August 26. This meeting was designed by the Diocese of Scranton to give every parishioner a "Last Change" opportunity to voice their position to the pastor, Msgr. Sempa on the proposed closing of this church and the future of the parish.

We salute the efforts of the Sacred Heart Wilkes-Barre Founda-



tion, Inc. in helping to preserve the beautiful Sacred Heart Church as the worship site of the Catholic community of North Wilkes-Barre. All of the Slovak Catholic fraternal, all of whom have strong and vibrant lodges in the parish, including our 1,000-member Assembly 59, do not want to see historic Sacred Heart church shuttered. We hope that the Foundation, which includes many well-known Sokol members, will keep us abreast of any future plans regarding Sacred Heart Church. We hope that the Bishop of Scranton will respect and understand the position of the Foundation.

Annual Midwest Pastoral Seminar set for September 28 in Chicago

The annual Midwest Slovak Pastoral Seminar under the auspices of the Slovak Catholic Federation is scheduled for Sunday, September 28 in Chicago, Ill. The seminar will be held at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Casimir located at 2601 West Marquette Road. An enjoyable seminar has been planned.

Ms. Susan Marcinkus will present a 45-minute DVD on Slovakia titled "Pictures of the Old Country." Following the presentation, a question and answer session will take place. Ms. Marcinkus's film has been shown on PBS. The seminar begins at 1 p.m. At 1:45 p.m., Ms. Geraldine Hletko will offer the official welcome and introduce the speaker. A buffet luncheon will be enjoyed at 3 p.m. The

offering for this annual seminar is \$15.00 for pre-registration. At the door, the cost is \$20.00. Prepaid registration can be arranged by calling John Jurcenko at tel. (773)763-0810. Deadline for all pre-registration is Wednesday, September 17th. For additional information on this year's seminar, contact Geraldine Hletko at (708) 387-7812.

For nearly 20 years, the Midwest Chapter of the Slovak Catholic Federation has hosted these Slovak Pastoral Seminars for those interested in learning more about our wonderful Slovak faith traditions. These gatherings are always enjoyable opportunities for those of Slovak ancestry in the Chicago area to meet and enjoy traditional fellowship.



Members of the Pittsburgh Slovaks are shown above delighting their audience. - photo by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.



Members of the PAS Slovak Folk Ensemble are shown above entertaining during the cultural program at this year's 85th annual Pittsburgh Slovak Day. - photo by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.



The Pittsburgh Slovaks are shown above performing their special male-female song skit. - photo by Michael J. Kopanic, Jr.

Register for e-Falcon Today!

The Slovak Catholic Sokol will be offering our members e-Falcon, the Slovak Catholic Falcon publication on the Internet starting December 5, 2007 as per the decision of the delegates of the 30th Quadrennial Convention, held August 6-10, 2007 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

e-Falcon will provide you with...

- * A current edition of the SCS newspaper hot off the presses
- * No more late deliveries
- * A one month history of the Falcon
- * No more paper to throw away

Tired of late deliveries of the Slovak Catholic Sokol's primary news source? Go to <http://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org/members/efalconrequest.htm> and register today!!! Zdar Boh!

Fraternally yours,
Andrea M. Tadlock

Schneider-Trnavsky concert set for October 19 in New York

The Slovak American Cultural Center of New York is pleased to announce that a special concert recalling the musical genius of Mikulas Schneider-Trnavsky is scheduled for Sunday, October 19 in New York City. The concert will mark the 50th anniversary year of the death of one of Slovakia's greatest musical composers. The concert will take place in the Church of St. John Nepomucene located at the corner of 66th Street and First Avenue in Manhattan beginning at 2 p.m.

Mikulas Schneider-Trnavsky was born May 24, 1881 in Trnava in western Slovakia. He died in Bratislava on May 28, 1958. He studied at the Royal Hungarian Academy in Budapest and studied counterpoint in Vienna. His organ studies were completed at a conservatoire in Prague. He served as choirmaster at the Church of St. Nicholas in Trnava from 1919 to 1939. He served as choirmaster

and conductor for several churches and cultural associations in Slovakia and abroad. Many of his works joined the romantic tradition with intonations of Slovak folk songs. For the first half of the twentieth century, Schneider-Trnavsky was the leading composer of church works in Slovakia. A total of 226 of his works appeared in the *Jednotny katolicky spevnik* (The Comprehensive Catholic Hymnal published in 1937. Many of his works were known and beloved in most of the Slovak churches founded in the United States and Canada. He also composed numerous songs from the texts of noted Slovak poets. Some of his works were composed for chamber and orchestral music.

The October 19th concert will feature many of the works of Schneider-Trnavsky using a variety of musical instruments, including the organ. A reception will follow the concert in the parish hall.

Scholarships available for Pennsylvania members

The Pennsylvania Fraternal Congress (PFC) is again pleased to announce that \$500 scholarship grants will be available for 2008 high school graduates who will attend an accredited college, university or trade school as a full time student (twelve semester credits) during the upcoming summer or fall semester. Any resident of Pennsylvania belonging to a fraternal benefit society belonging to the PFC is eligible to apply. Any Sokol member residing in Pennsylvania may apply for these grants.

Applicants must complete the application and include proof of acceptance at their school. In addition, they must obtain a letter

of recommendation from their fraternal and submit a 500 word essay on the theme: "My Family, My Fraternal, My Life. The completed application and essay must be post-marked no later than September 7, 2008 and sent to Mr. Al Suhadolnik, Jr., American Slovenian Catholic Union, 113-Magnolia Dr., Glenshaw, PA 15116, tel. (412) 487-2492. The scholarship awards will be presented during the 107th annual meeting of the PFC scheduled for October 2008. An application for this scholarship is available from Editor Daniel F. Tanzone. Applicants should call him at the home office at tel. (973)777-4010.

Newly published works on Slovak songs available

Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc. of Wauconda, Ill. is pleased to announce that three new works devoted to Slovak songs are now available. "Slovak Songs in Latin, Slovak and English" with 170 music scores and 93 illustrations is a tri-lingual songbook edited by Ladislav J. Bolchazy and Ivan Reguli with translations by Bystrik Muransky. The book also includes a valuable bibliography which is a unique introduction to Slovak music and traditional songs. In addition, the CD selected Slovak Songs in English sung by Anna Katarina Schatzl and Joseph Ivaska, Jr. and the second CD selected Slovak Songs in Latin song by the Schola Cantorum Ioannis Pauli II of Vajny are also available. The book and the CDs make the perfect gift for those who love Slovak song.

The works are available from Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc. To order, call them at 800 392-6453 or email: lou@bolchazy.com.

PAS concert in November

The PAS Slovak Folk Ensemble of Pittsburgh, Pa. hopes to participate in next summer's International Slovak Folk Festival in Detva, Slovakia. They hope to raise funds for this project by performing at various cultural gatherings. They next scheduled event will be performing at Carlow University in Pittsburgh on Sunday, November 23. For more information, call (412) 373-3873.

Sokol Birthdays

SEPTEMBER 1

Stephen Bakita, Barberton, Oh., a member of Assembly 167, Barberton, Oh.

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

Diane Patter, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Luke V. Spisak, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Joseph Workosky, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

SEPTEMBER 2

Kenneth Cyburt, Chesapeake, Va., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Kevin Cyburt, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Paula J. Kaminski, Berwick, Pa., a member of Assembly 136, Nanticoke, Pa.

Robert P. Kantor Jr., Port St. Lucie, a member of Assembly 313, Winter Park, Fla.

Armina J. Lesinski, Mokena, Ill., a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.

Mary Ann Naple, Pittsburgh, Pa., president of Wreath 22, Pittsburgh, Pa.

SEPTEMBER 3

Msgr. John J. Demkovich, pastor of St. Mary's Assumption Parish, Passaic, N.J. and chaplain of Assembly 1 and Wreath 2, Passaic, N.J.

Sandra Sarosy Duve, Colorado Springs, Co., a member of Assembly 312, Passaic, N.J.

Janet Gibbons, Central City, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Patrick Tech, Erie, Pa., a member of Assembly 64, Erie, Pa.

Joy E. Kovalycsik, Haskell, N.J., a member of Assembly 162, Clifton, N.J.

SEPTEMBER 4

Sharon Fitzpatrick, Pittsburgh, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Dolores Kramer, Merrifield, MN., a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.

Rev. Methodius Pavlik, Troy, N.Y., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Kathleen A. Rushin, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Most. Rev. David A. Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh Pa. and a member of Assembly 206, Ambridge, Pa.

SEPTEMBER 6

John Kubacka, Jr., Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

SEPTEMBER 7

Michael Fesko, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Peter E. Ognibene, Emmaus, Pa. a member of Assembly 78, Bethlehem, Pa.

Bernard Vrabel, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

SEPTEMBER 8

Margaret Babik, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Professor Karol Belak, Bronx,

N.Y., a member of Assembly 182, New York City.

SEPTEMBER 9

Annette Telgarsky, Westchester, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

SEPTEMBER 10

Michael Bajus, Orillia, Ontario, Canada, a member of Assembly 227, Toronto, Canada.

Maria Belokostolsky, Jackson Heights, N.Y., a member of Assembly 182, New York, N.Y. Happy 94th birthday!

Dominic Hajko, Bronx, N.Y., Honorary financial secretary of Assembly 182, New York City.

Allison M. Moore, Indiana, Pa., a member of Wreath 2, Passaic, N.J.

Joseph J. Prebola, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Dr. Edward A. Tuleya, Millersville, Pa., a member of Assembly 261, Reading, Pa.

SEPTEMBER 11

Helen C. Karas, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

SEPTEMBER 12

Larissa Adara Dorans, Branchville, N.J., a member of Wreath 2, Passaic, N.J.

Joseph A. Neslusan, Portsmouth, N.H., a member of Assembly 28, East Douglas, Mass.

SEPTEMBER 13

Margaret Gyauch, Johnstown, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Carolyn A. Holodak, Yonkers, N.Y., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

Cheryl Ann Flanagan, Spring Hill, Fla., a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.

SEPTEMBER 14

Joseph Barlak, Boonton, N.J., a member of Assembly 24, Boonton, N.J.

Irene Matuschak, Uniontown, Pa., Honorary Supreme Officer and a member of member of Assembly 239, Uniontown, Pa.

Lisa Marie Neslusan, South Pasadena, Ca., a member of Assembly 28, East Douglas, Mass.

SEPTEMBER 15

Edward V. Begany, Jr., Whittier, Ca., a member of Assembly 312 Passaic, N.J.

Dolores Horner, Gathersburg, Md., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Dennis Kitsko, Washington, Pa., a member of Wreath 14, Johnstown, Pa.

Mildred Novak, Watertown, Conn., a member of Assembly 219, Yonkers, N.Y.

SEPTEMBER 16

Anthony J. Gober, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., a member of Assembly 59, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

SEPTEMBER 17

Kathleen M. Moliterno, Erie, Pa., a member of Wreath 15, Perryopolis, Pa.

Eugene Jan Hrbán, Somerville, Mass., a member of Assembly 314, Boston, Mass.

SEPTEMBER 18

Sister Grace Ann Kalafut, S.S.C., Chicago, Ill., a member of Assembly 11, Chicago, Ill.



Members of the Supreme Assembly who were present at this summer's Clinic-Kurz held at Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pa. in preparation for next summer's 44th International Slet pose for a group photo. Seated on the photo from the left are: Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Kathleen S. Watkins, Supreme Assistant Physical Directress Julie M. Laury, Supreme Physical Directress Susan L. Blosser, and Members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Katie Jozwiak Swift and Denise DiMartino. Standing, l-r, Supreme Sports Director Edward D. Moeller, Supreme Assistant Physical Director Roger J. Manyak, Supreme Physical Director Dusan Dorich, Supreme Chaplain Rev. Andrew S. Hvozdozovic, Supreme Assistant Sports Director James C. Matlon, Supreme President Larry M. Glugosh, Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Frank P. Laury, III, Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C., and Members of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board Damian J. Suess and John M. Underation. The 44th International Slet is scheduled for the Kutztown University campus, July 7-11, 2009.

2008 Scholarship Recipients express thanks and gratitude

What the Slovak Catholic Sokol means to me...

My name is Stephanie Schlebusch and I live in Pittsburgh, Pa. I attend Bishop Canevin High School. The Slovak Catholic Sokol means many things to me. I have enjoyed all of the various Sokol events I have attended. These events bring together Slovak youth to celebrate our heritage, to give us confidence and opportunities to show off our talents. I especially enjoyed when the Sokol youth attended last year's annual Slovak Day festivities at Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh. The Slovak Catholic Sokol also supports our educational pursuits in many ways, one of which is the Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial High School Grant. The grant would mean the world to me. Please consider my application. Thank you.

Zdar Boh!

Stephanie Schlebusch
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Being a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol is a very important part of my Slovak heritage. In the past, especially when I was younger, I would attend various Sokol functions with my grandmother. I enjoy reading the Sokol newspaper because it speaks about our beautiful heritage and traditions.

This past summer, I attended my first International Slet. It was one of the best experiences of my life. I met so many new people and formed bigger friendships with the people in Group 17. Not only was it a good experience, but it was also a growing experience. I feel I have grown more as a person because of the Slet. I am glad I was able to participate and I'm looking forward to our next Slet in 2009.

My grandmother, Josephine (Necko) Hlebovy, is the one responsible for getting me involved in the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The thing that I remember most are the Group 17 Christmas parties. My grandmother would love telling me stories about our Slovak heritage and I would love listening to them. When I was about four years of age, my grandmother gave me a handmade doll from Slovakia. She passed away when I was seven years old and when I think about my Slovak heritage, I always think of her.

Stephanie Nicole Hlebovy
Youngstown, Oh.

I am proud to say that I am a member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. My grandparents and my father are all Slovak, and oh so proud! My grandparents are always telling me and my brother and sister stories that I enjoy hearing and are very interesting to me. I was fortunate enough to attend St. Matthias grade school, kindergarten thru seventh grade, and unfortunately due to the school's closing, I had to transfer to St. Charles School to complete my eighth grade year. I come from a

family of a strong Catholic background in both religion and nationality, and very proud of it. I enjoy reading the articles and looking at the pictures in our Sokol newspaper that my family receives in the mail. Even in the tenth grade, I still attend the annual Group 17 Christmas parties with my grandparents so that I can assist them with my little sister. Last July, I had the privilege of attending and participating in our organization's 43rd International Slet. I have to say that the Slet was one of the most exciting and fun times I have ever experienced. I look forward to participating in our next Slet as well. I thank you in advance for considering me for this school grant.

Angela Stana
Youngstown, Oh.

The Slovak Catholic Sokol means family and tradition to me. My grandparents are very careful to make sure that my parents, brother, cousins and I all understand the importance of our Slovak heritage. We are a very close-knit family that celebrate all religious holidays together. We vacation together and we go to church together. I feel that the Slovak Catholic Sokol presents a great opportunity to students who attend a Catholic school, just knowing that there is an organization that supports Catholic education is comforting. The Sokol provides many opportunities beyond that of grade school, high school and college scholarships and I deeply appreciate having those opportunities available to me. Thank you.

David Stana
Youngstown, Oh.

College recipients:
Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Selection Committee:

I would like to thank you for selecting me as one of the recipients of a 2008 Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Grant. The money is greatly appreciated as I continue my studies in business and accounting at Minnesota State University Mankato this fall. I am fortunate to belong to an organization that encourages and supports young people in completing their education and reaching their life goals. Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Daniel Matlon
Group 11
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Brother Pogorelec,
I received my Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Grant check and want to express my gratitude to you for choosing me as one of the recipients for 2008.

This scholarship will be very helpful with the continuation of my education this fall in the field of architecture at Dutchess Community College.

I will strive to do my best to make the Slovak Catholic Sokol organization proud for selecting

me as a scholarship recipient. Thank you once again and may God bless our wonderful organization. Zdar Boh!

Sincerely yours,
Michael Vavrka
Fishkill, N.Y.

Dear S.C.S. Scholarship program and Mr. Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C.,

I would like to thank the Slovak Catholic Sokol for awarding me a 2008 scholarship grant thus enabling me to continue my education at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. I will be continuing my studies in biology. This money will relieve some of the financial burden of paying for college. It is an honor to be recognized by this wonderful organization. My heartfelt thanks is extended to the Sokol and its members.

I wish to thank the Slovak Catholic Sokol for their support and I greatly appreciate their generosity. Zdar Boh!
Sincerely,
Katherine A. Minese
Portsmouth, R.I.

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to inform you that I have received your generous Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Grant in the amount of \$1,000. Thank you very much for considering me and offering me this opportunity to fund my college education. I will continue my studies at the University of Akron in the fall. Once again, thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Heather Chewing
Group 5
Canton, Oh.

High school recipients:

Dear Mr. Pogorelec and scholarship committee:

I am very thankful to you for awarding me a 2008 Slovak Catholic Sokol High School scholarship grant. I will be a sophomore at Holy Name High School this fall and this scholarship will definitely help my family pay the school tuition. Thank you for choosing me out of the many deserving applicants. I am very thankful. God bless.

Sincerely,
Daniel DiMarino
Parma, Oh.

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I want to thank the Slovak Catholic Sokol organization for granting me the Abbot Jerome Koval, O.S.B. Memorial High School Scholarship Grant. It will be applied to my Catholic high school education. I am proud to be a Slovak Catholic Sokol!

Sincerely,
Evan Pogorelec
Group 1
Clifton, N.J.

Dear scholarship committee,

Thank you so much for granting me a Catholic high school scholarship grant. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to continue my education at a Catholic high school. Thanks again, I really appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Jessica Dobbs
Group 4
Racine, Wis.

Dear Mr. Pogorelec,

I just received your check in the mail today. I would like to thank you and the Scholarship Committee for awarding me a \$500.00 scholarship towards my Catholic high school education.

My parents also thank you, as this gift will certainly help us with tuition fees. I appreciate your generosity and may God bless you all.

Sincerely,
Jeremy A. Lynch
Greencastle, Pa.

Dear Supreme Secretary Pogorelec,

I would like to offer my deep gratitude for granting me the \$500 scholarship toward my Catholic education. You would fully have understood my appreciation had you seen the smile on my face when I received the check in the mail last week. Thanks to your help over the years, I have attended a Catholic school beginning in kindergarten and will now be completing my senior year at Saint Joseph High School. I cannot express the thanks that I owe to your organization for giving me that life-changing experience. As I look forward to college, I have you to thank for the solid foundation I have built in my past.

Sincerely,
Emma Scuglik
Group 4,
Waukegan, Ill.

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors:

I am writing to inform you that I received my Catholic high school grant. I am very grateful to have been selected to receive it. Once again, my sincere thanks.

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Shorts
Group 7,
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors:

I would like to inform you that I have received my Catholic high school scholarship grant and wish to thank you for helping further my Catholic education. I was very pleased that you have given me this opportunity. Thank you again.

Sincerely yours,
Alyssa M. Shorts
Group 7
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Brother Pogorelec,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of my scholarship check in the amount of \$500.00. The Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial Grant will be of great assistance to me in my Catholic education. Once again, my sincere thanks.

Best regards,
Stephanie Schlebusch
Group 14
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Brother Pogorelec,

I have received my scholarship check in the amount of \$500.00 I am pleased to have been awarded the Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial High School Grant. Thank you very much for providing assistance with my Catholic education. Once again,

my sincere thanks.

Best regards,
Ronald Schlebusch
Group 14
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Scholarship Committee,

I am honored to have been selected to receive the 2008 S.C.S. Abbot Jerome M. Koval, O.S.B. Memorial Scholarship Grant. As a member of Group 11, I am impressed by how much the Sokols care about their youth's Catholic education. I have enjoyed representing Minnesota at the past three Slets and look forward to next year's Slet at Kutztown, Pa. The Clinic this year was a wonderful opportunity to take a leadership role along with my cousins. I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to many more in future years.

Zdar Boh!
Charles D. Matlon
Group 11
Minneapolis, Minn.

Grade school recipients:

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol Board of Directors,

I received the Catholic Grade School Grant of \$250.00 for my school today. I would like to thank the Board of Directors for choosing me as one of the grant recipients. All of my family were very proud of me and I am proud of both my Slovak heritage and Catholic faith. Thank you for assisting me in my Catholic education.

Sincerely,
Charles Timothy Foreman, III
Group 17
Youngstown, Oh.

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol,

As a Slovak Catholic Sokol scholarship recipient, I want to tell you I am very grateful for my grant. I am lucky to be able to attend a Catholic school. I know that I am getting a very well-rounded education. I am fortunate to be able to talk about my religion at school. I feel blessed that I was chosen to receive this grant because I know how it will help my family in these tough economic times. My family and I are proud to be Sokols and Sokolky. Za Boha a Narod!

Gratefully yours,
Alexa A. Bakalarski
Group 14
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Slovak Catholic Sokol,

I wish to express my sincere "thank you" for the Catholic grade school grant which I recently received. I like my school a lot. I will be in third grade in the fall.

Sincerely,
Catherine Rossi
Group 2
Torrington, Conn.

Dear Sokols,

Thank you very much for the Catholic grade school scholarship. Thank you for helping me continue my Catholic education.

Zdar Boh!
Katerina R. Tadlock
Group 12
Reading, Pa.

*** The American Way *
Celebrate Citizens' Day,
Constitution's Week**

The signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, was only the beginning. The proposed new Constitution still had to be approved by the people. The states were called upon to determine whether "We the People" really wanted to establish the institutions of government set forth in the Constitution. Approval was far from automatic. While several states ratified the Constitution unanimously, others were deeply divided, and the votes were very close in several key states. But with the New Hampshire vote on June 21, 1788, the ninth state convention ratified the Constitution, making it the law of the land.

Two hundred twenty one years later, the Constitution is still the law of the land, and "We the People" are still active partici-

pants. In 1952 Congress authorized the President to issue an annual proclamation designating September 17th of every year as *Citizenship Day* in commemoration of the signing of the Constitution. On this day, we recognize all citizens - especially those who have come of age (new voters) and those who have been naturalized during the year (new citizens). That commemoration recognizes not only that "We the People" are the supreme authority, but that citizenship plays a primary role in our system of government.

Now the President issues a single proclamation each year, designating September 17 as *Citizenship Day* and the period beginning September 17 and ending September 23 as *Constitution Week*.



Domovina Dancers to note 25th anniversary

The Slovak Domovina Dancers, a well-known Canadian folk ensemble promoting the rich music and dance traditions of Slovakia, will observe their 25th

anniversary this fall at a festive celebration. The dancers will host a special Harvest Festival Dinner and Dance on Saturday, October 25 in the Slovak Center of SS.

Traditional Slovak Rusyn Song Festival set for September 20 in Bridgeport, Conn.

The New England Chapter of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society will present a Rusyn-Slovak Song Festival by the popular musician, cantor, teacher and singer, Jerry Jumba on Saturday, Sept. 20 at St. John's Auditorium located at 364 Mill Hill Avenue in Bridgeport, Conn. beginning at 1:30 p.m. There is free admission, however a free will offering will be accepted.

Put your cares away and come and sing and dance along with Jerry and his nostalgic songs from the "Old Country" in Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine. The festival will provide an exciting introspective into Rusyn-Slovak music. Jumba is a graduate of Duquesne University and studied Rusyn culture and music in eastern Europe. He has translated folk songs into "sing-able" English, produced many medieval Rusyn Bethlehem plays, and served as a Cantor and choir director for various Byzantine churches in western Pennsylvania.

The Carpatho-Rusyn Society is a not for profit organization head-

quartered in Pittsburgh, Pa. devoted to the study and dissemination of information about Rusyn ethnicity, history and culture and has chapters in various areas of the United States. The New England Chapter is one of the largest and most active chapters. The homelands of the Rusyn people are now found in eastern Slovakia, Poland, and western Ukraine. They are often referred to as Rusins, Rusnaks, Carpatho-Russians, Ruthenians or Little Russians. The Rusyns never

had their own country. The society maintains ties with Rusyns in Europe and provides encouragement, humanitarian aid and relief to Rusyns living in the homelands.

Again, admission to this outstanding event will be free, however donations are welcome. Traditional ethnic food and refreshments will also be available. For further information email nepresident@c-rs.org. Area Sokol members are welcome to attend.

2nd Annual Slovak Catholic Sokol Walk-A-Thon

Where: Your favorite park, trail or neighborhood
When: Saturday, September 6, 2008
Time: All day long
Triple Your Miles!!!!
Participation Prizes will be awarded to all walkers!

Due in part to the success of last year's Sokol Walk-A-Thon, we have decided to continue this fine fraternal tradition this year. Since our members are spread in such a wide ranging geographic area, we cannot all come together in one place for our Walk-A-Thon. We can however all walk together, on the same day, celebrating the same traditional fraternal spirit. You may walk alone or with a group of people. Encourage new members to join us in this wonderful healthful exercise. If you are looking for other Sokol walkers in your area, contact me and I will be pleased to see if you could all meet for the afternoon. Walking together is a great way to meet new friends while at the same time staying fit. I am very excited about this year's event which enjoyed such success last year. I hope that many more of our members will decide to join us this year. I am so proud of all our past and present Sokol walkers. As always, I look forward to receiving the responses of our Sokol walkers.



To participate, just fill out the form found below and return it to me no later than September 12, 2008. I would also appreciate if those participating would also include a photo of themselves or their group when submitting their form. This will be a great way to encourage more people to join us as we all promote our ageless Sokol slogan of "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body." Keep walking and Zdar Boh!

Katie Jozwiak Swift
Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board



Name _____

Group _____

Where did you walk? _____

How far did you walk? _____

Now triple your miles _____

Do you have a favorite song that gets you excited to start walking and/or you enjoy listening to while your walk?



Please note my new address:
Katie Swift,
Member of the Supreme Physical Fitness Board
3207 Playa Court
Marina, CA 93933



Useful Slovak Websites

- | | |
|--|---|
| www.skonline.sk | Slovakia Travel Guide |
| www.travelguide.sk | Hotel and Spa Guide |
| kosice.region.sk | Kosice-City Travel Guide |
| www.slovakia.org | Bratislava-Information about the city |
| www.vtatry.sk | Information about the High Tatras |
| www.tatry.net | Complete information about the Tatra region |
| www.hotel-net.sk | Tourist accommodations |
| www.skonline.sk | Slovakia On-Line (general information) |
| www.kultura.sk | Slovak cultural calendar |
| www.snm.sk | Slovak National Museum |
| www.savba.sk | Slovak Academy of Sciences |
| www.government.gov.sk | Government of the Slovak Republic |
| www.snd.sk | Slovak National Theater |
| www.stv.sk | Slovak Television |
| www.nbs.sk | National Bank of Slovakia |

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR REQUEST
FOR SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON
SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL
P.O. BOX 899 • 205 MADISON STREET
PASSAIC, N.J. 07055**

NEW CHANGE CANCELLATION

Certificate No. _____

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Old Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**September - Back to School
For Your Youngsters**

School days mean *Be careful* days for all motorists. Help make them safe for all the youngsters in your area:

- * Drive at posted speed limit in school zones; be prepared to stop.
- * Watch for and obey crossing guards or patrols.
- * Approach and pass school buses with care.
- * Watch for kids walking or biking on or alongside roads and streets near school.



Obituaries...

Active Slovak cultural, fraternal leader

George N. Kantor, former New York Sokol activist, succumbs at age 92 in Florida

For more than 50 years, there was hardly a Slovak or Sokol activity in the New York area, which did not have the wholehearted and enthusiastic support of George N. Kantor. His name was synonymous with the activities of the Slovak Catholic Sokol, the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Slovak League of America, the Slovak Catholic Federation and other organizations and groups as well. George passed away peacefully on August 9 in Port St. Lucie, Florida where he made his home for the past 26 years. He was 92. His was a full life enthusiastically lived and dedicated to the promotion and love of Slovak culture and heritage.

George was a native of the coal mining town of Palmerton, in eastern Pennsylvania, where he was born April 19, 1916, the second of three sons of Slovak immigrant parents, Andrej and Katarina (Rapcan) Kantor. With the conclusion of the First World War, his mother packed up their belongings and took George and her other sons in 1919 back to her native Slovak village nestled in the foothills of the Little Carpathian Mountains which was now a part of the newly established Czechoslovak Republic. After two years years in the village of Kokava, his parents then moved to Hodejov, near the Hungarian border. George was raised in this area of Slovakia and received his education there.

With war clouds on the European horizon, the Czechoslovak military attempted to draft George into its army. Since he was born in the United States, he wrote a letter to the American Ambassador in Prague inquiring whether he must take the physical examination for the Czechoslovak Army. The American Embassy responded telling him to mail his birth certificate and they would issue him an

American passport. Thus on April 22, 1936, he departed Slovakia and boarded the S.S. Washington for his return voyage to his native United States. On May 1, 1936, the ship entered New York harbor and he gazed on the Statue of Liberty for the first time. Tears of gratitude came to his eyes as he embarked on his new life in America. He initially returned to his native Palmerton, where the sons of his godparents welcomed him. There was little work in the area and after a few weeks, he embarked on a train back to New York City where he was told there was employment available. He found an apartment on Manhattan's Lower East Side and low and behold during a visit to the East Tenth Street Park, he met a number of Slovaks. One of them found him a job at the St. George Hotel in Brooklyn - a lowly dishwasher. George was happy and fulfilled. George earned \$2.00 for a nine-hour day. The Slovaks he met also informed him of St. John Nepomucene Church which was the center of the Slovak community's religious and social life. Thus began what would be a half century sojourn in the Big Apple.

Upon his arrival in New York in 1936, the first organization George joined was Assembly 182 of the Slovak Catholic Sokol at St. John Nepomucene Parish where he was active serving in various offices including that of president of the lodge.

On January 18, 1941, George married the former Helen Saas at St. John Nepomucene Church. With the U.S. entry into World War II, George volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army in defense of his native country. He rose to the rank of Sergeant and saw combat in the European Theater helping to liberate the Czech city of Plzen from Nazi occupation. He remained in

In Memoriam

The Slovak Catholic Sokol extends sincere sympathy to the bereaved families of our deceased members

JULY 2008

Assembly/Wreath	Member	Age	Date of Death
Assembly 10	Richard Grega, Farrell, PA	78	May 2, 2008
Assembly 11	Raymond J. Bezak, Chicago, IL	52	June 26, 2008
Assembly 11	Rita Slanina, Chicago, IL	88	June 29, 2008
Assembly 11	Agnes Seliga, Chicago, IL	88	June 12, 2008
Assembly 34	William P. Berzak, Minneapolis, MN	94	June 18, 2008
Assembly 36	Mildred Mlynek, Detroit, MI	80	July 5, 2008
Assembly 53	John Zahurancik, Cleveland, OH	86	June 20, 2008
Assembly 57	Joseph P. Galgon, Allentown, PA	75	June 18, 2008
Assembly 57	John Thomas Petras, Allentown, PA	91	May 2, 2008
Assembly 59	Sister Petronilla Cizik OSF, Wilkes-Barre, PA	91	April 16, 2008
Assembly 59	Sister Mary Lucy Cizik OSF, Wilkes-Barre, PA	96	2004
Assembly 59	Stefan M. Baloga, Wilkes-Barre, PA	87	June 17, 2008
Assembly 63	Katerina Janos, Sleepy Hollow, NY	87	July 00, 2008
Assembly 64	Robert J. Jurino, Erie, PA	81	June 17, 2008
Assembly 71	Frank Sterbinsky, Edwardsville, PA	93	July 20, 2008
Assembly 78	Michael Stefan, Bethlehem, PA	87	July 00, 2008
Assembly 78	Mary Buchanio, Bethlehem, PA	92	May 10, 2008
Assembly 78	Anna Krenicky, Bethlehem, PA	83	July 12, 2008
Assembly 78	Elizabeth Jasso, Bethlehem, PA	88	June 3, 2008
Assembly 82	Edward Daniel Susko, Dunlo, PA	60	July 15, 2008
Assembly 162	Mary Kormos, Clifton, NJ	86	July 24, 2008
Assembly 162	George Baron, Clifton, NJ	79	January 27, 2005
Assembly 180	Helen V. Estenik, Canton, OH	91	June 22, 2008
Assembly 219	Mark Dering, Yonkers, NY	88	July 00, 2008
Assembly 261	Thomas Zavada, Reading, PA	82	June 26, 2008
Assembly 312	Margaret Payenski, Passaic, NJ	88	May 24, 2008
Assembly 312	Edward Parzygnat, Jr., Passaic, NJ	76	June 28, 2008
Wreath 1	Mary Kahanec, Bridgeport, CT	88	July 13, 2008
Wreath 16	Stephen Palko, Joliet, IL	92	July 10, 2008
Wreath 28	Josephine Chudy, Allentown, PA	94	July 20, 2008
Wreath 34	Carl J. Pezak, Cleveland, OH	63	February 7, 2005
Wreath 107	Anna Sakmar, Youngstown, OH	84	June 29, 2008
Wreath 155	Barbara V. Le Van, Reading, PA	84	July 17, 2008
Wreath 157	Olga Bereziak, Whiting, IN	91	June 13, 2008

the area as part of the Army of Occupation. After four years of active service, George returned to his wife Helen and his home to New York City. The marriage was soon blessed with two the birth of two sons, George, Jr. in 1947, who passed away in 2006; and Robert born in 1950. George's beloved wife Helen passed away in 1967.

In 1972, George married Marienka Durovic and the couple left New York for warmer climes, settling in Port St. Lucie, Florida. His second wife, Mary passed away in 2006.

Throughout his long and fruitful life, Brother Kantor was active in American Slovak life. He was among the founders of the Slovak World Congress in 1970 and actively promoted the work of the Slovak League of America and the Slovak Catholic Federation. Following the Soviet invasion of the then Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the arrival of new Slovak immigrants, he served as treasurer of the American Fund for Slovak Refugees.

In the Slovak Catholic Sokol, Brother Kantor served as president of Assembly 182 until moving to Florida where he then became active in our Sokol Assembly 313 in Orlando, Fla. During his New York years, he was active as an officer of Group 1 and attended several national conventions. During the American Bicentennial, Group 1 honored him with its St. Martin's Day Award for outstanding fraternal leadership on Nov. 14, 1976. He was also active in the First

Catholic Slovak Union, serving at one time as president of Branch 45 in New York. While in New York, he was active at St. John Nepomucene Parish, serving for several years on its Parish Council.

Brother George enjoyed writing and was gifted with a prolific pen. He served on the editorial board of *Slovak v Amerike*, the oldest Slovak publication in the U.S., and contributed many articles to other Slovak publications, including our own. During his years in Florida, Brother George was active in The Slovak Garden in Orlando and served as chairman of several Florida Slovak Days. He frequently visited Slovakia and encouraged others to visit the scenic land of his forebears. Even with frail health, he longed to visit Slovakia once again. During his visits to Slovakia, he met with many prominent Slovak government and cultural officials, including President Ivan Gasparovic.

In addition to his son, Robert, Brother Kantor is survived by three step children and 13 grandchildren, all of whom enjoy membership in the Slovak Catholic Sokol.

Brother Kantor was laid to rest in Florida on August 14 following a Mass of Christian burial. May Brother George, who was a patriotic American and proud son of the Slovak nation who so beautifully mirrored our fraternal way of life, now rest in peace. Our sympathy is extended to his family.

Anna Sakmar, 84, was Financial Secretary of Wreath 107, Youngstown

Anna Sakmar passed away on June 29 at the Hospice House in Youngstown, Oh. after a lingering illness. She was 84.

A native of Youngstown, Oh., she was born there October 4, 1923, daughter of the late Joseph and Anna Dzurak and was a life-long resident until five years ago.

Anna was a 1941 graduate of Campbell Memorial High School. She worked at the Board of Elections as presiding judge for over 50 years. She was a life-long member of St. Elizabeth Slovak Parish in Campbell where she was active in the Infant Jesus of Prague Guild and the Rosary Society. She was an active Slovak fraternalist. She was a long-time Sokolka and served for many years as the Financial Secretary of Wreath 107. She attended many national conventions and was also active in Group 17. She was also a member of Branch 260 of the First Catholic Slovak Union.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her daughter, Nancy and son-in-law, Marge Sakmar of East Liverpool, Oh.; four sisters-in-law, Mrs. Marian Dzurak of Campbell, Oh.; Mrs. Helen Kicko, Mrs. Cecilia Gentile, both of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. Eileen Sakmar of Florida; four step-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

Anna Sakmar was preceded in

(Continued on page 15)



George N. Kantor, right, is shown meeting with Slovak President Ivan Gasparovic during his August 2006 visit to Slovakia.

Obituaries...

Thomas Franta, Assembly 1 officer and Slovak activist, succumbs at age 89

Teofil(Thomas) Franta of Saddle Brook, N.J. passed away peacefully on August 17 after a lengthy illness. He was 89.

A native of Hajske, located outside Nitra in western Slovakia, he was born there January 18, 1919, son of the late Alexander and Ethel (Cambalik) Franta. He came to the United States as a child settling in Passaic, N.J. In 1952, he moved to Saddle Brook where he resided until his death. He was a self-employed businessman. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and served in both the African and European Theatres of Operation during World War II. He was an avid golfer during his lifetime.

Active in the New Jersey Slovak community, the deceased was a long-time Sokol of Assembly 1 in Passaic, N.J. and at the time of his death he was serving as vice president of his lodge. Assembly 1 is the oldest lodge in the Slovak Catholic Sokol. He represented his lodge at several national conventions and was active in various Group 1 activities over the years. He was among the founders and served for many years on the committee of the annual New Jersey Slovak Heritage Festival. He was also active and supported the work of the Slovak League of America and the Slovak Catholic Federation. He was a parishioner of St. Mary's Assumption Parish in Passaic since coming to the United States as a child. At St. Mary's, Brother Tom was a member of the Holy Name Society and the church's Guard of Honor. The Franta family is a 100% Sokol family. Brother Tom's wife, Skolastika, who survives, currently serves as

president of Wreath 2 in Passaic.

On August 27, 1946, he married the former Skolastika Cambalik in his native village of Hajske in Slovakia. Following their marriage, the couple settled in the United States. The couple celebrated nearly 62 years of marriage. The marriage was blessed with a son, Daniel Franta, DMD of Somerset, N.J.; a daughter, Mrs. Irene Bliss and her husband, Roger of Gainesville, N.Y. as well as a grandson, Michael Loyd and a great-grandson, Michael Scott Franta Loyd.

Family, friends and fellow fraternalists paid their final respects to Brother Franta at the Bizub-Quinlan Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Thursday, August 21 at St. Mary's Assumption Church in Passaic with the pastor, the Rev. Msgr. John J. Demkovich presiding. Concelebrating was the Rev. John Catoir. Supreme Secretary Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C. represented our organization at the funeral rites. Interment followed at St. Mary's Cemetery in Saddle Brook, N.J.

May our Brother Tom, who so beautifully mirrored our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage of faith and promoted the works of charity and benevolence in the best traditions of Sokol fraternalism, now rest in peace. We thank him for his years of faithful service to the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Our sympathy is extended to the Franta family.



Slovak language classes begin in Pittsburgh

The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association (WPSCA) is once again sponsoring Slovak language classes for Pittsburgh area residents. Classes begin on Tuesday, September 2 at the Kollar Club located at 3226 Jane Street, South Side, Pittsburgh from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The nine-week course for both beginners and intermediate students meets every Tuesday evening until October 28. The instructor is Bozena Hilko. Tuition is \$10.00 for members of the WPSCA or \$20.00 for non-members. For additional information, call Pam at (412)531-2990.

Religious items are needed for the missions

Those of our members who would like to assist missionaries in various parts of the world may do so by sending old holy cards, old calendars with religious pictures or religious cards, pictures, medals, rosaries, scapulars, religious booklets or pamphlets and other small religious items. These items may be sent to religious sisters for distribution to the missions. The sisters paste the holy cards back-to-back, therefore even memorial holy cards - after someone has passed away - are put to good use. If you would like to help, send any of the above mentioned items to: International Cord Rosary Center, 3800 West Peterson Ave., Chicago, IL 60659-3116. May God bless you for your help in helping to spread the Gospel to all corners of the earth.

Assembly 53 of Cleveland, Oh. to be consolidated with Wreath 153

Effective August 15, 2008, the 123 members of Assembly 53 in Cleveland, Ohio will be consolidated with Wreath 153 in Parma, Ohio. This reorganization has been agreed upon and approved by the Home Office in Passaic, N.J.

I wish to thank the Radic family and the past officers for their cooperation and dedicated efforts for all they have done for the Assembly and for our organization. I encourage the members of former Assembly 53 to remain active within our organization and their new Wreath.

If there are any questions or concerns that need to be addressed, please feel free to contact the Home Office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday - Friday at Tel. Nol 800-886-7656. If any member of Assembly 53 would like to be placed in another Assembly or Wreath, kindly inform me.

Once again, I thank everyone in advance for their cooperation and understanding during this transition. With every good wish, I remain Zdar Boh!

Wreath 16 of Joliet, Illinois to be consolidated with Assembly 257

Effective August 1, 2008, the 149 members of Wreath 16 in Joliet, Illinois will be consolidated with Assembly 257 in Chicago, Illinois. This reorganization has been agreed upon and approved by the Home Office due to lack of activities and officer replacement to assume the responsibilities of managing the Wreath.

I wish to thank Mrs. Mary A. Lazar, as well as all the past officers for their cooperation and dedicated efforts over the years in promoting the work of the Wreath and our organization as well. I encourage the members of former Wreath 16 to remain active within our organization and in their new Assembly.

If there are any questions or concerns that need to be addressed, members of former Wreath 16 should feel free to contact the Home Office between the hours 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday to Friday at Tel. No. 800-886-7656. If any member of Wreath 16 would like to be placed in a different Assembly or Wreath rather than Assembly 257, kindly inform me.

Once again, I thank everyone in advance for their cooperation and understanding during this transition. With best wishes to all, may I remain Zdar Boh!

Fraternally yours,
Steven M. Pogorelec, F.I.C.
Supreme Secretary

Anna Sakmar

(Continued from page 14)

death by her husband, Frank Sakmar, whom she married September 28, 1946, and who passed away on March 28, 1992; her son, Richard Sakmar; a brother, Andrew Dzurak; and two sisters, Mary Sciranko and Helen Dzurak.

Family, friends and fellow fraternalists paid their final respects to Sister Sakmar at the Wasko Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated in St. Elizabeth Church. Interment followed locally. May our departed Sister Sakmar who served our organization so faithfully and mirrored the high ideals of Slovak fraternalism now rest in peace. Our sympathy is extended to her family.

George Tomov, active Slavic cultural leader

It is with sadness that I inform the New York area Slovak community of the passing of a dear friend and active promoter of Slavic culture and heritage, George Tomov. George passed away in New York

City on August 5 at the age of 75.

A native of Macedonia, George immigrated to the United States as a young man and settled in New York. He became active in the dance community of the city, specializing in the colorful and creative traditions of not only his native homeland but of the family of Slavic nations, including Slovakia. He established the Tomov Dance Ensemble and dedicated himself to the promotion of Macedonian and Slavic culture through folk dance and songs. His ensemble comprised mostly young Americans who remained loyal to him to the end. He was an outstanding dancer and choreographer.

For almost 40 years, George represented Macedonia on the Board of the Slavic Heritage Council of New York and directed most of the annual Slavic Dance Festivals that were held initially at Lincoln Center and currently at the Fashion Institute of America. George will be sorely missed by his friends at the Slavic Heritage Council. May he rest in peace!

Lydia Demko

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P.O. Box 899 - 205 Madison Street
Passaic, N.J. 07055

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP _____

NUMBER OF BOOKS _____

Held in Youngstown, Ohio

Minutes of the Semi-Annual meeting of Group 17 "Rev. Francis Skutil"

The semi-annual meeting of Group 17 "Rev. Francis Skutil" was held on April 20, 2008 in St. Matthias School Hall in Youngstown, Oh. The President, Supreme Treasurer James G. Jerek called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. He called upon Brother Glen Kramer to open the meeting with a prayer and then asked Brother Ken Hlebovy to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Brother Jerek then called on the Secretary, Sister Carol Gonda to read the roll call. All were in attendance with the exception of Sister Nancy Kropolinsky, who was excused.

The minutes of the annual meeting were read since they had not appeared in our official publication. The minutes were accepted on a motion by Brother Dick Hodos, seconded by Sister Edie Babik.

Brother Jerek then appointed the following committees: Verifications committee, Brother Glen Kramer and Sister Edie Babik; New Motions, Brother Dick Hodos, and Sisters Mary Garasic and Judy Sullivan. Brother Tibor T. Kovalovsky then asked to offer a prayer for the repose of the soul of Joseph Sharo, our former secretary who passed away recently.

The meeting then broke for lunch. Brother Jerek asked Sister Mary Babnic to offer the prayer before meals. After enjoying a wonderful lunch, the second session of the annual meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. Brother Jerek called on the Activities Committee and due to the fact that it was a semi-annual meeting, some offices might not as yet have a report to present.

Sister Carol Gonda then called on President Jerek to present his report. Brother Jerek reported that he met at one place or another with the presidents or their representatives of Groups 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 14, 15, 18 and 19 to discuss some of the things going on in our organization and how Groups were addressing them. All the Groups are facing the same problems as are all fraternalists. Brother Jerek indicated that he attended the 20th International Basketball and Volleyball Tournament in Uniontown, Pa.

President Jerek then called upon the Vice President, Brother Glen Kramer who had no report to present. The Secretary, Carol Gonda then presented her report. She indicated that she mailed the minutes of the annual meeting to headquarters on October 23. She then called the president to schedule the semi-annual meeting. After finalizing the date, she sent the announcement to the editor and then sent letters to all the Wreaths, Assemblies and officers of Group 17 announcing the semi-annual meeting.

Brother Jerek then called on the Financial Secretary-Treasurer, Brother Tim Shirilla to present his report. Brother Shirilla reported the starting balance in the checking account was \$1,290.90 and that the balance as of April 20, 2008 is \$2,603.04.

The president then called on Brother Lucansky for the report of

the auditors. Brother Lucansky indicated that he had no report at this time.

Brother Jerek called on the Physical Fitness Board for their report presented by Sister Judy Sullivan. She indicated that on Oct. 21, 2007, they attended the annual meeting. On December 2, 2007, a highly successful children's Christmas party was held hosted by Wreath 54, Assembly 108 and Assembly 107. It was held at the Elm Tree Banquet Center. It would not have been successful were it not for the donation of \$623.75 from Group 17. Over 150 children and adults enjoyed the annual event. A total of 248 pounds of canned goods was collected and given to the Second Harvest Foodbank in Youngstown during their "Feed the Valley Campaign."

Several area businesses donated items for the party, including: The Elm Tree, Burger King, Arby's, Jullian's, Glow Fore It and Tinseltown. The following members also provided donations: Steve Blasko, who shared his balloon sculpting talent and dressed as a clown; Stan and Joe Catullo, who donated gift certificates to Catullo Prime Meats; John Gordulic, who donated two dinners at Teenie's Tavern; Marie Scott, who donated cookies from Nemenz and Andy and Norma Lucansky who donated the gifts for the children's prize bags, as well as the beautiful poinsettias. A very special thank you goes out to all committee members, those who signed up and those who jumped in and volunteered their services where needed. Members of the planning/set up committee included: Edith Babik, Bill Babik, Susan Babik, Judy Sullivan, Nancy Kropolinsky and John Kropolinsky. Members of the sign in/raffle committee included: Andy Lucansky, Mary Garasic, Stan Bonish and Mary Bonish. We also thank our photographer, Tom Shirilla. Beginning in September, 2007 Sister Edith Babik supports the Group 17 bowling league by participating in the weekly league competition.

Brother Jerek then asked Madam Secretary Carol Gonda if we had any communications. Sister Carol indicated that a letter was received from the Slovak Catholic Federation asking for a donation to the annual SS. Cyril and Methodius Appeal. The president also asked Brother Shirilla if he had any communications and he indicated that he had none.

Brother Jerek then call on Sister Edie Babik to present the report of the verifications committee. A total of 19 delegates were present at the meeting.

The president then asked if there was any old business to discuss. Sister Carol Gonda indicated that we still do not have a Sports Director. Brother Jerek indicated that he was still looking into filling this position and has a few possible candidates.

Brother Jerek then asked if there was any new business. Sister Sue Babik asked if the Wreaths and Assemblies sponsor a picnic or Christmas party would the Group be able

A unique benefit offered by our organization

Slovak Catholic Sokol Offers First Mortgage Loans

The SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL is a Fraternal Insurance Society and, as such, its basic and primary business is the issuance of safe, low cost fraternal insurance coverage to its members and the responsibility and safeguard thereof, and to foster fraternalism among its membership through its local lodges and Groups by encouraging participation in our various organizational local and national programs.

The SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL is NOT a mortgage lending institution, although on occasion when deemed practical our S.C.S. Board of Directors, at its discretion, may extend First Mortgage Loans for the good will, promotion and/or fraternal benefits which our organization would derive there from, to eligible, qualified and responsible applicants who meet specific requirements, i.e., to: (1) Active S.C.S. Subsidiary organizations, to assist, encourage and promote local involvement to benefit our membership and organization as a whole; and (2) Active S.C.S. members in good standing, holding reasonable amounts of S.C.S. Life Insurance coverage, to purchase personal residency homes.

It is to be understood that our Board of Directors, acting on behalf of and for the entire membership of the SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, cannot and will not issue mortgage loans indiscriminately since any such loans, in fact, are intended to be safe, legal investments of our entire membership's monies.

No application for a First Mortgage Loan is to be submitted to the SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL for consideration and/or approval by our Executive-Finance Board when there is a deadline for its issuance as the established procedure entails a certain amount of time. Our Board of Directors is required to operate discretionally and in accordance with our established procedure in ensuring safe investments of the monies of our organization for the benefit of our organization and its entire membership.

Meetings of the S.C.S. Board of Directors are held on a Quarterly scheduled basis, for economic reasons. Understandably, the cost involved in bringing the members of our Board of Directors together for a meeting, from various states, increases the cost of our operations. Meetings are scheduled to administer to all the financial business of the S.C.S. which our S. C.S. Board of Directors is authorized to handle.

After due and favorable consideration by our S.C.S. Board of Directors of the applicants who have met all the eligibility requirements and providing monies allocated for the purpose of extending S.C.S. First Mortgage Loans are available at the time the files will be turned over to our S.C.S. General Counsel to handle the legal details for the processing of the transaction with the applicant's attorney.

The SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL reserves the right to cancel the mortgage loan should the mortgagors' membership in the SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL finds it necessary for any reason to cancel a S.C.S. First Mortgage Loan, the mortgagors would be required to release, in favor of the SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL any and all

claims or demands which the S.C.S. Subsidiary Organization of S.C.S. members may have by reason of such cancellation.

Please note: S.C.S. First Mortgage Loans to eligible, qualified and responsible S.C.S. members are applicable only for the purpose of purchasing a home for personal family residency. Mortgage Loan Application forms may be obtained upon written request addressed to Steven M. Pogorelec, Supreme Secretary, SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 Madison Street, P.O. Box 899, Passaic, New Jersey 07055.

APPLICANTS QUALIFICATIONS

S.C.S. members applying to the SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL for a First Mortgage Loan for the purpose of purchasing a home for personal family residency are required to be financially responsible, active members, in good standing in their local lodge and holding reasonable amount of S.C.S. Life Insurance coverage. Membership requirement includes both husband and wife, one of whom must have been a member of our organization for at least five years and the other for at least one full year prior to the date they submit their S.C.S. Mortgage Loan Application.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Application: A S.C.S. Mortgage Loan Application, properly completed and furnishing all the information requested therein, is to be sent to the Supreme Secretary, SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL, 205 Madison Street, P.O. Box 899, Passaic, New Jersey 07055. If the applicant's qualifications are acceptable and the requirements are fully met, the application will be entered on the agenda for the next scheduled regular meeting of our S.C.S. Board of Directors for consideration.

2. Down Payment: S.C.S. member applicants for a First Mortgage Loan are required to make a down payment of at least 10 % of the purchase price of the property at the time of purchase.

3. Mortgage Loan Amount: The amount applicants request for the S.C.S. First Mortgage Loan cannot be for more than the difference of the 10% down payment and the total purchase price of the property, up to a maximum of \$300,000, requested to be mortgaged by the SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL. Applicant will be responsible for all closing costs.

4. Appraisal Estimates: S.C.S. member applicants must furnish for our records estimates from two separate, reputable, local Real Estate Agencies certifying the current appraisal value of the property on which the S.C.S. Mortgage Loan is being requested.

5. House Pictures: S.C.S. member applicants must provide for our records two clear pictures (snapshots) of the house on the property being purchased, showing either (a) Full views of the Front and Side of the House; or (b) Full views of the Front and Back of the house.

If approved by our S.C.S. Board of Directors, the S.C.S. First Mortgage Loan will be issued for a period of not more than 20 years.

Mortgage Loan payments on Principal and Interest will be payable either Monthly or Quarterly as approved by the S.C.S. Board of Directors, Interest on the S.C.S. First Mortgage Loan will be at the rate determined by the S.C.S. Board of Directors.

to assist. Brother Jerek indicated that it would be up to whatever the Group budget had set if such support would be possible.

Sister Carol Troll brought up the membership eligibility. He indicated that the application asks the new member to support the ideals of the Catholic faith and the preservations of the Slovak heritage, as well as uphold the bylaws of the Slovak Catholic Sokol. Any member in good standing may recommend a

new member.

Brother Jerek reported that he was speaking with a former Physical Directress of Group 6 who had recently moved in the area. She indicated that she was thinking about the possibility of serving as Physical Directress of Group 17.

The date of the annual meeting had not as yet been set due to the fact that Brother Jerek serves on the Board of Directors which meets in September or October. As soon as a

date has been set by the home office, he would then be able to set an annual meeting date for Group 17.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Sister Edie Babik, seconded by Brother Dick Hodos. Brother Jerek called on Sister Mary Garasic to offer the closing prayer. Zdar Boh!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Gonda
Group 17 Secretary

Report of the Supreme Secretary for the Month of July, 2008

REPORT OF THE SUPREME SECRETARY SLOVAK CATHOLIC SOKOL Activity for the Month of July, 2008

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES Month of July, 2008

ASSETS

	<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>
Cash - Senior Account	\$ (70,119.24)
Cash - Bank of Montreal	3,619.99
Cash - Payroll Account	30,000.00
Petty Cash	408.00
Investments - Bonds & Bills	42,011,081.65
Investments - Stocks	2,975,260.07
Capital Reserve	2,324,577.26
Stock Adj. to Book Value	4,927,699.24
First Mortgage Loans	481,666.37
Loans on Certificates	204,726.19
Accrued Interest Receivable	604,781.00
Prepaid Expense	4,737.53
Sokol Building	2,635,984.66
Land	204,108.00
Furniture & Fixtures	143,712.45
Sokol Baby Spoons	11,714.34
Accounts Receivable	41,994.91
Non-Admitted Assets	(38,091.00)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 56,497,861.42

LIABILITIES AND RESERVES

Life Reserves	\$ 35,243,286.00
Reserve Dep. Furn. & Fixtures	139,690.73
Reserve Dep. Sokol Building	2,602,113.64
Asset Valuation Reserve	1,121,547.00
Interest Maintenance Reserve	256,900.00
Reserve for Supplemental Contracts	149,782.00
Reserve Emp. Retirement Plan	3,907,198.00
Reserve for Convention	78,750.00
Matured Endowments	88,167.37
Claims Payable	170,545.25
Conversion - Canadian Currency	(0.28)
Accounts Payable	72,201.37
Mary Jane Rich Scholarship Fund	85,000.00
Joseph & Mary Spemoga Scholarship Fund	10,000.00
Dividend Accum. At Interest	329,249.54
Dividend Payable	34,386.38
Advance Premiums	17,857.00
Premium Load	4,899.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 44,311,573.00
Undistributed Funds - Sokol	\$ 12,186,288.42
TOTAL LIABILITIES & SURPLUS	\$ 56,497,861.42

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES Month of July, 2008

INCOME

	<u>JULY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Interest on Bonds and Bills	\$ 194,665.65	\$ 1,443,000.17
Other Investment Income	0.00	2,090.94
Dividends on Stocks	13,393.74	105,875.19
Interest on Mortgages	2,080.57	24,332.22
Interest on Certificate Loans	15.60	5,968.23
Sale of Cookbooks	13.50	782.96
Rent Received - Sokol Building	9,300.00	58,850.00
Premium Income	41,966.10	381,850.56
Annuities	7,000.00	129,370.89
Miscellaneous Income	922.73	10,238.19
Publication Administration Fee	1,338.30	8,870.02
Scholarship Income	(5,500.00)	8,495.24
Sale of Securities/Amortization	2,600.00	(299,903.05)
Total Income	\$ 267,796.19	\$ 1,879,821.56

EXPENSES

	<u>JULY</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Operating Expense - Sokol Building	\$ 7,060.88	\$ 49,970.09
Building Maintenance & Repairs	0.00	1,094.43
Rental Area Expenses	198.16	2,535.44
Property Taxes - Sokol Building	25,791.17	72,882.54
Depreciation Sokol Building	311.52	2,180.64
Depreciation Furniture & Fixtures	1,548.00	10,836.00
Rent for Space	1,250.00	8,750.00
Pension Plan - Print	964.06	6,748.42
Salaries - Office Employees	38,077.00	239,475.90
Salaries - Editorial Employees	7,695.00	48,531.80
SS & Federal Income Tax - Office	3,350.15	24,354.41
Hospitalization	9,773.74	80,595.42
Workmen's Compensation Insurance	903.87	2,948.00
Pension Plan - Office	6,230.74	43,615.18
Office Expense	1,613.54	14,414.05
Supreme Officers Travel	1,311.27	9,228.59
Supreme Auditors	0.00	7,437.64
Actuaries	0.00	4,345.00
Accountants Expense	2,350.00	16,645.76
Postage - Office	6,561.42	16,649.69
Telephone - Office	516.60	3,846.51
Telephone - Editorial	261.06	1,702.71
Printing - Katolicky Sokol	4,021.60	27,902.40
Photography - Sokol Paper	0.00	267.50
Postage - Sokol Paper	2,560.00	47,950.23
Misc. Publication Expense	0.00	1,611.86
Other Printing	588.00	7,351.57
Legal Expense	0.00	2,100.00
Death Benefit Claims Paid	65,205.67	555,837.93
Cash Surrender Values Paid	10,410.99	146,853.67
Annuity Surrenders	34,354.51	115,240.59
Matured Endowments Paid	8,554.00	29,866.00
State Insurance Dept. Lic./Fee	900.00	3,327.91
Bank Charges - Bond Account	9,424.60	68,373.58
Supreme Officers Uniform Allowance	2,502.61	4,402.11
Dues & Subscription	90.00	7,314.76
Donations & Contributions	745.00	4,110.00
Clinic	22,515.25	26,468.19
International Bowling Tournament	543.89	12,114.45
International Basketball Tournament	0.00	8,497.35
District Tournaments	0.00	4,650.00
Other Coaching, Insurance	0.00	8,089.75
International Softball Tournament	8,108.75	8,358.75
Convention Expenses	11,250.00	78,750.00
Group Assessments Paid	0.00	25,726.37
Commission Expense	1,060.18	15,118.10
Annuity Commissions	190.00	2,657.13
Advertising - Promotional	2,230.93	10,740.78
Marketing Expense	2,237.10	3,346.19
Agency Expenses	155.00	7,650.56
Annual Meeting Expense	0.00	16,281.75
Board of Directors Expense	2,148.94	9,386.08
Physical Fitness Board Expense	3,032.71	3,906.67
Scholarship Expense	39,250.00	42,372.84
Salaries - Supreme Officers	0.00	26,847.50
Supreme Officers Insurance Bond	0.00	1,139.00
Fraternal Congress Expense	3,360.00	16,548.61
Local Fees/Rebates	20,409.85	(2,921.36)
Interest Expense	738.36	7,413.60
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 372,356.12	\$ 2,024,440.64
TOTAL INCOME (LOSS)	\$ (104,559.93)	\$ (144,619.08)

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Steven M. Pogorelec, FIC
Supreme Secretary
Slovak Catholic Sokol

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2	58.00	54.00	43	253.00	249.00
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4	62.00	58.00	45	272.00	268.00
5	64.00	60.00	46	282.00	278.00
6	66.00	62.00	47	293.00	289.00
7	68.00	64.00	48	303.00	299.00
8	70.00	66.00	49	314.00	310.00
9	73.00	69.00	50	326.00	322.00
10	75.00	71.00	51	337.00	333.00
11	78.00	74.00	52	349.00	345.00
12	81.00	77.00	53	362.00	358.00
13	84.00	80.00	54	374.00	370.00
14	87.00	83.00	55	387.00	383.00
15	90.00	86.00	56	400.00	396.00
16	94.00	90.00	57	414.00	410.00
17	97.00	93.00	58	427.00	423.00
18	100.00	96.00	59	441.00	437.00
19	104.00	100.00	60	456.00	452.00
20	107.00	103.00	61	470.00	466.00
21	111.00	107.00	62	485.00	481.00
22	115.00	111.00	63	501.00	497.00
23	119.00	115.00	64	516.00	512.00
24	123.00	119.00	65	532.00	528.00
25	127.00	123.00	66	548.00	544.00
26	132.00	128.00	67	563.00	559.00
27	137.00	133.00	68	579.00	575.00
28	142.00	138.00	69	596.00	592.00
29	148.00	144.00	70	612.00	608.00
30	153.00	149.00	71	629.00	625.00
31	159.00	155.00	72	646.00	642.00
32	166.00	162.00	73	662.00	658.00
33	172.00	168.00	74	679.00	675.00
34	179.00	175.00	75	695.00	691.00
35	186.00	182.00	76	711.00	707.00
36	193.00	189.00	77	727.00	723.00
37	201.00	197.00	78	743.00	739.00
38	209.00	205.00	79	758.00	754.00
39	217.00	213.00	80	773.00	769.00
40	226.00	222.00			

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31. slovenský festival New Jersey bude 28. septembra

Výbor Festivalu slovenského dedičstva v New Jersey pokračuje v pripravách 31. výročného festivalu. V roku 2007 sa na tomto podujatí zúčastnilo 10 tisíc ľudí a výbor očakáva približne taký istý počet aj tohto roku.

Festival bude 28. septembra v PNC Bank Center v Holmdel, NJ (Exit 116 z Garden State Parkway). Začne sa o 10.00 hodine ráno. O 11.00 hod. bude katolícka sv. omša, ktorú bude celebrowať biskup Spišskej diecézy František Tondra (ThDr.), ktorý je t.č. predsedom Biskupskej konferencie Slovenska. Asistovať mu budú viaceri slovenskí kňazi z okolia.

Kultúrno-zábavný program sa začne na javisku o 2.00 hod. popoludní. Po tradičnej prehliadke krojov vystúpi folklórna skupina PAS z Pittsburghu a detská skupina Limbora z New Yorku. Účastníkov bude zabávať aj duo

spevákov a zabávačov Jozef a Dodo Ivaškoví zo Slovenska, ktorí už na festivale úspešne vystupovali v minulých rokoch. Na festivale budú prítomní aj významní hostia zo Slovenska.

Od 3.00 hodiny bude hrať do tanca kapela Kontakty. Na festivale bude približne 40 stánkov s výstavkami a s rozličnými zábavnými, kultúrnymi a pamiatkovými predmetmi a viac ako 10 potravinových stánkov s pestrým výberom slovenských jedál. Vstup na festival je bezplatný.

Záujemcovia o výstavné alebo predajné nepotravinové stánky sa ešte môžu prihlásiť u Z. Krčmárovej na č. (973) 357-1209. Rezervácie potravinových stánkov si možno zaistiť u Henriety Daitovej (201) 641 8922.

Festival slovenského dedičstva každý rok navštívi niekoľko tisíc Slovákov.

– Výbor Festivalu

Zahraniční dobrovoľníci obnovovali slovenské pamiatky

K záchrane slovenských hradov a zámkov už tradične prispievajú dobrovoľníci zo Slovenska. Na zrúcaninách hradov Sklabiňa a Veľký Šariš sa k nim pridali aj dobrovoľníci zo zahraničia. Na zrúcanine Šarišského hradu pri meste Veľký Šariš na východe Slovenska pracovali dobrovoľníci z Ukrajiny, Srbska, Talianska, Česka i Španielska. Cieľom dobrovoľníckeho tábora sú rôzne pomocné práce – úprava okolia zrúcaniny, oprava dreveného plotu, starostlivosť o zvieratá v areáli hradu a pomoc pri čistení rieky Torysy.

Medzinárodný tábor dobrovoľníckej práce organizuje združenie INEX Slovakia v spolupráci s OZ Rákochi cesta a trvala do 23. augusta. V ten deň skončil aj ďalší dobrovoľnícky tábor, ktorý združenie INEX Slovakia pripravil neďaleko Martina. Dobro-

voľníci z Francúzska, Srbska, Talianska, Nemecka a z Japonska pomáhali občianskemu združeniu DONJON pri renovácii historickej hospodárskej budovy v blízkosti zrúcaniny hradu Sklabiňa. Projekt "Nechajte svet prísť k Vám" realizuje INEX Slovakia vďaka grantovému programu "Hľadá sa dobrý nápad".

International EXchanges je mimovládne, neziskové občianske združenie založené v roku 1993. Cieľovou skupinou aktivít združenia sú mládež a mladí ľudia. Hlavné ťažisko práce spočíva vo vysielaní a prijímaní dobrovoľníkov na medzinárodné tábory dobrovoľníckej práce. Okrem toho usporadúva národné i medzinárodné semináre, školenia pre mladých ľudí pracujúcich s mládežou, pripravuje medzinárodné projekty prostredníctvom programu Európskej únie "Mládež v akcii".

Opustili nás

Juraj Kantor

V Port St. Lucie, Florida, zomrel vo veku 92 rokov známy slovenský národný činiteľ v Amerike Juraj N. Kantor. Počas svojho dlhoročného pobytu v New Yorku zastával mnohé funkcie v slovenských spolokoch. Bol predsedom 182. zboru Slovenského katolíckeho sokola a podpredsedom 1. župy. V Slovenskej lige v Amerike, kde bol členom v Združení slovenských katolíkov zastával funkciu podpredsedu. Po odchode do Floridy bol aktívny v Slovenskej záhrade, kde bol zvolený za podpredsedu a ukočení svojej funkcie bol čestným podpredsedom.

Posledná rozlúčka z J. Kantorom bola 14. augusta vo Floride.

Tomáš Franta

Po ťažkej a dlhej chorobe skonal 17. augusta vo veku 89 rokov Tomáš Franta zo Saddle Brook, NJ. Bol aktívny v slovenskej komunite v New Jersey. Zastával funkciu podpredsedu 1. zboru S.K.S. v Passaicu, NJ a bol členom prípravného výboru Festivalu slovenského dedičstva v NJ. Aktívny bol aj v Slovenskej lige v Amerike a Združení slovenských katolíkov.

Posledná rozlúčka s Tomášom Frantom bola 21. augusta v kostole Nanebovzatia Panny Márie v Passaicu, NJ.

Večera v Pittsburghu

Slovenské kultúrne združenie v západnej Pensylvánii (WPSCA) usporiada v nedeľu 14. septembra slávnostnú večeru, na ktorej budú poctení viacerí zaslúžilí činitelia, ktorí povzniesli slovenské meno úspechmi.

Banket na ich počesť sa bude konať v hoteli Radisson - Greentree na 101 Radisson Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa. Recepčia sa začne o 5. hodine a banket o 6. hodine. Vstupné je \$55.00. Informácie a rezervácie: WPSCA, 1910 Cochran Rd., Pittsburgh Pa. 14220.

Gulášová večera v Linden, NJ

210. zbor Slovenskej ligy v Linden, NJ usporiada v sobotu 6. septembra v Slovenskom klube na Tremley Point "Guláš Party". Začiatok je o 7.30 hod. Prítomný bude aj americký advokát, ktorý bude odpovedať na otázky prítomných. Informácie: Alena – tel. č. 908-247-3494.

Pút' v North Jackson, Oh.

Združenie slovenských katolíkov v Youngstown, Ohio pozýva slovenskú verejnosť na pút' dňa 14. septembra k úcte Sedembolestnej Matky Božej v Shrine of Our Lady of Libanon, 2757 Lipkey Road v North Jackson, Oh. Svätosť pomazania chorých bude o 3. hod. a sv. omša o 4. hodine. Homilistom bude biskup Edward Pevec z Clevelandu. Informácie a rezervácie: Rev. G. Franko, tel. č. 330-782-9126.

Vo Vlkolínci sa stretne 175 fotografov zo 45 krajín



Vo Vlkolínci s 29 trvalo žijúcimi obyvateľmi sa má stretnúť 175 fotografov zo 45 krajín, aby sa pokúsili v rozmedzí 2 - 3 hodín urobiť najviac fotografií tejto obce, ktorá je na zozname UNESCO.

Do Guinnessovej knihy rekordov tak zrejme pribudne ďalší zápis. Pôjde o podujatie v rámci 29. svetového kongresu FIAP - celosvetovej fotografickej organizácie registrovanej pri OSN.

Podujatie sa bude konať od 22. do 30. augusta. Záštitu nad ním prevzal predseda vlády Robert Fico. Väčšina akcií sa uskutoční v Ružomberku, niektoré v Bratislave a Žiline. Tento rok sa svetový kongres FIAP koná po prvýkrát vo svojej histórii na Slovensku. Prihlásených je 175 účastníkov z Číny, Ománu, Singapuru, Japonska, Indonézie, Nového Zélandu a mnohých iných krajín.

Na Bratislavskom hrade otvorili výstavu o rokoch s osmičkou

Vznik štátu, nastolenie komunistickej diktatúry i snahy o jej zmenu na demokraciu v bývalom Československu pripomína výstava o milníkoch slovenských dejín na Bratislavskom hrade. Všetky z nich sa totiž udiali v dátumoch zakončených osmičkou, a tak majú tento rok okružhle výrobie. Výstava Magická osmička v dejinách Slovenska doputovala do Bratislavy po tom, ako ju videli na viacerých miestach v zahraničí.

"Je to fakt náhoda, lebo významné udalosti sa udiali aj v iných rokoch, ale viaceré sa udiali práve v rokoch zakončených osmičkou," povedal ČTK Pavol Komora, spoluautor výstavy, ktorú 14. augusta sprístupnili.

Výstava pripomína aj časy pred Veľkomoravskou ríšou. V roku 828 bol vysvätený prvý kresťanský kostol v Nitre. O 210 rokov neskôr zomrel prvý uhorský kráľ Štefan I., za ktorého sa

Uhorsko konštituovalo ako mnohonárodnostný štát. V roku 1848 zase Slováci podobne ako ďalší Európania vystúpili za svoje národné práva.

Dokumenty pripomínajú aj vznik spoločného štátu Čechov a Slovákov v roku 1918 či rok 1938, keď Slovensko získalo autonómiu. Rok 1948 zase priniesol komunistický režim, o 20 rokov neskôr snahy o demokratickú transformáciu štátu skončili okupáciou vojskami Varšavskej zmluvy.

Súčastosť výstavy je aj rok 1989, ktorý sa sice nekončí osmičkou, ale ukončil éru komunizmu. Už v marci 1988 totiž tisíce Slovákov protestovali proti komunistickému režimu na Sviečkovej manifestácii v Bratislave. Vystavený je aj ostatný drôt, ktorý ešte pred dvoma desaťročiami ovíjal slovenské hranice. Výstava potrvá do 28. septembra, doposiaľ bola inštalovaná v 15 štátoch.

V Kremnici začali raziť euromince



V Kremnici 19. augusta začali slávnostne raziť prvé euromince. Tou úplne prvou je 20-centová eurominca. Na rozdiel od ostat-

ných, ktoré majú okrúhly tvar, práve 20-centová má najzaujímavejší tvar tzv. španielskeho kvetu. Po jej obvode je sedem malých oblúčikov smerujúcich do stredu. Razbu odštartovali za prítomnosti premiéra, ministra financií a guvernéra Národnej banky Slovenska. Do konca roka plánujú v Kremnici vyrobiť 500 miliónov kusov slovenských euromincí – od jedného centa až po dve eurá – čo by malo postačiť na úvodné zásobenie ľudí novou menou.

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

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ROČNÍK XCVIII

PASSAIC, NJ, 27. AUGUSTA 2008

ČÍSLO 4867

Smutné výročie invázie Československa

Počas okupácie Československa v roku 1968 prišlo o život 72 ľudí

Hukot ruských tankov, strelba, ulice plné rozhorčených, no bezmocných ľudí pripravených brániť svoju vlasť i holými rukami. Tak vyzerali ulice Československa 21. augusta presne pred štyridsiatimi rokmi.

V noci na 21. augusta 1968 prekročila hranice 750-tisícová okupačná armáda Varšavskej zmluvy, ktorá v Československu na 20 rokov pochovala akékoľvek nádeje na život v slobodnej spoločnosti.

Obyvatelia ráno videli pri svojich domoch tanky, no celá akcia sa začala na ružnom letisku v Prahe. Tam najskôr o polnoci pristáli sovietske civilné lietadlá. V nich sedeli velitelia mohutnej vzdušnej operácie. Po nich pristáli dva obrovské stroje, z tých povyskakovali ozbrojenci, ktorí budovu letiska obkľúčili. Čoskoro prichádzalo jedno lietadlo za druhým, dohromady až 800, z ich útrobov vychádzali i tanky. Ďalšie sa valili z Poľska, Nemeckej demokratickej republiky a Maďarska dovnútra štátu po zemi. Ráno bola prakticky celá republika obsadená...

Jedinou zbraňou nešťastných obyvateľov bol občiansky odpor. Ľudia strhávali názvy ulíc, aby znemožnili okupantom orientáciu. Československá armáda nebojovala, aby sa predišlo masakrom. Napriek tomu okupanti prakticky bezdôvodne zabíjali neozbrojených civilov na uliciach, neušetrili ani mladé ženy. Sovietsky zväz, Maďarsko, Poľsko, Bulharsko a Východné

Nemecko zaútočili na Československo, pretože klika Leonida Brežneva v Moskve nevyhovoval experiment demokratizácie spoločnosti, známy ako socializmus s ľudskou tvárou, o ktorý sa pokúšalo nové vedenie komunistickej strany pod vedením Alexandra Dubčeka.

Následovalo obdobie dvadsiatich rokov normalizácie, Dubčeka v čele strany nahradil Gustáv Husák. Vojská prišli i na základe pozývacieho listu, ktorý Brežnev prevzal pravdepodobne 3. augusta 1968 na záchode v dnešnom bratislavskom hoteli Sorea. List podpísali Vasil Biľak, Oldřich Švestka, Drahomír Kolder, Alois Indra a Antonín Kapek.

Vojaci Varšavskej zmluvy prišli do krajiny smrť nevinným ľuďom. O život prišlo úplne zbytočne 72 ľudí, z toho 19 na Slovensku. Ústavu pamäti národa sa podarilo zmapovať, ako zomierali. Nečakaná smrť číhala na obyvateľov vo všetkých kútoch Slovenska.

Na sídlisku v Detve občania na prechádzajúce tanky pokríkovali, a tak ruskí vojaci spustili strelbu zo samopalu do hlúčka stojaceho na chodníku. O život prišli 28-ročný Štefan Zdechovan a iba 18-ročný Rudolf Gavorník.

V Rožňave rozhorčený dav sovietsku kolónu na chvíľu zastavil, čo malo krvavú dohru. Tank priláčil k stene Štefana Ciberaja, otca troch detí, pričom mu rozmliaždil panvu a odtrhol pravú nohu. Muž zraneniam podľahol. Tank tu zachytil i osemročné dievčatko –

Magdu Ulmanovú, tá sa našťastie zo zranenia vyliečila.

V Košiciach zastrelili iba 16-ročného Michala Hamráka ranou priamo do srdca. Bartolomej Horváth pracoval na stavbe hotela Slovan, keď ho nečakane zasiahla strela do brucha a ruky. Mladý robotník bojoval o život dva týždne, nakoniec svoj boj prehral. V Sučanoch ruský cisternový voz strhol z chodníka 17-ročnú Aničku Ulickú. Následne ju prešli ďalšie dva vozy. Po usmrtení dievčaťa kolóna bez zastavenia pokračovala v ceste.

Na bratislavskom Šafárikovom námestí prišli o život až traja ľudia. Najznámejšou obeťou bola 15-ročná Danka Košanová, ktorú okupanti zastrelili na schodoch Univerzity Komenského. O kúsok ďalej, na Námestí SNP, bezdôvodne zastrelili 16-ročného Peška Legnera.

Minister Kubiš bude viesť delegáciu SR na VZ OSN

Minister zahraničných vecí Ján Kubiš bude viesť slovenskú delegáciu na 63. zasadnutí Valného zhromaždenia Organizácie Spojených národov (VZ OSN), ktorú sa začne 23. septembra v New Yorku.

Do predbežného plánu práce zasadnutia, ktorého sa zúčastnia vrcholní predstavitelia 192 členských krajín OSN, bolo zaradených 154 bodov. Týkajú sa medzinárodnej bezpečnosti, ozbrojenia, globalizácie, terorizmu, trvalo udržateľného rozvoja, životného prostredia, ochrany ľudských práv, udržiavania mieru, obnovy postkonfliktných spoločností a ďalších naliehavých otázok multilaterálneho charakteru.

Všeobecná rozprava VZ OSN, v ktorej vystúpia hlavy štátov, predsedovia vlád a ministri zahraničných vecí, sa bude konať v dňoch 23. septembra až 1. októbra. Šéf slovenskej diplomacie sa jej zúčastní 23. až 27. septembra, pričom odprezentuje stanoviská SR k otázkam týkajúcim sa udržiavania medzinárodnej bezpečnosti, reformy multilaterálneho systému a sociálno-ekonomickej problematiky.

Správy zo Slovenska

• V júli zaznamenal importér vozidiel Citroën na slovenskom trhu 840 registrácií nových áut. Vďaka tomuto počtu dosiahla automobilka Citroën na Slovensku prvýkrát tržový podiel 9 percent.

• Od septembra otvorí v mesiacoch Trnava, Martin, Žilina, Kyšucké Nové Mesto a Dolný Kubín šesť nových škôl na prípravu špecialistov automobilovej výroby. Školy pripraví kvalifikovaných pracovníkov podľa súčasných požiadaviek trhu práce.

• V Ružomberku zomrel 10. augusta robotník po tom, ako sa na neho zrútili takmer dve tony betónu. Tragédia sa stala, keď 46-ročný robotník usmerňoval nasypaný kôš s betónom. Keď hydraulická ruka zdvihla betón nad jeho hlavu, zariadenie sa pokazilo a kôš spadol z 1,5 metrovej výšky priamo na robotníka.

• Vo veku 101 rokov zomrela v Bratislave známa slovenská herečka, spisovateľka a astrologička Vilma Jamnická. Patrila k zakladajúcim osobnostiam slovenskej činohry.

• Miera nezamestnanosti na Slovensku sa v júli nepatrne zvýšila na 7,47 percenta z júňových 7,42 percenta. V porovnaní so siedmym mesiacom roku 2007 sa miera nezamestnanosti znížila o 0,83 percenta.

• Najvyššiu nezamestnanosť, viac ako 25 percent, mali v júli podobne ako v predchádzajúcich mesiacoch dva okresy na juhu stredného Slovenska, Rimavská Sobota a Revúca. Tradične najnižšia bola v Bratislave.

• Počas nočnej búrky zomreli 16. augusta na hudobnom festivale v Jaslovských Bohuniciach dvaja ľudia, ktorých zasiahol padajúci strom. Ďalší sklončil s ťažkými zraneniami v nemocnici.

• Búrka a silný vietor v ten istý deň spôsobili škody v Trnavskom kraji v okolí Piešťan, kde na cesty popadalo viac ako 70 stromov. Vietor strhol strechy z domov a voda zaliala cesty a pivnice.

• Novopostavenú kaplnku na počesť kňaza, politika a horlivého turistu Andreja Hlinku v turistickom areáli Smrekovica pri Ružomberku 17. augusta vysvätil

biskup František Rábek, ordinátor Ozbrojených síl SR. Leží v nadmorskej výške približne 1 400 metrov a je najvyššie položenou sakrálnou stavbou na Slovensku. Slávnosti sa zúčastnilo približne 120 veriacich. Kaplnka bola vysvätená pri príležitosti 70. výročia úmrtia otca slovenského národa.

• Telo týždeň nezvestného 60-ročného českého turistu našli 19. augusta horskí záchranári v doline Zlomísk v západnej stene pod Drukom vo Vysokých Tatrách. Pravdepodobnou príčinou bolo pošmyknutie a následný pád. Je to už jedenásta obeť vo Vysokých Tatrách od začiatku roku.

• Na Slovensku žije 134 občanov vo veku sto rokov a viac. Z toho je 105 žien a 29 mužov. Najstaršia je 107-ročná Amália Sobinovská z Nálepkova. 10-tisíc dôchodcov už dosiahlo 90 rokov.

• Študenti z tretieho sveta poznávajú prostredníctvom vzdelávacieho medzinárodného programu Európskej únie – Erasmus Mundus slovenský vidiek. Študenti z Albánska, Bolívie, Kameru, Kolumbie, Konga, Číny, Ghany, Haiti, Indie, Mexika a z Nigérie sú ubytovaní v rodinách v obciach a na lazoch v Bzovniku, Čerbadskom Vrbovku a v Krupine. O svoje zážitky a postrehy sa podelia na záverečnej konferencii "Viediečka turistika v Honte očami sveta".

• Kytice k pamätnej tabuli obetiam paľby sovietskych okupantov do neozbrojeného davu v auguste 1968 položili prezidenti SR Ivan Gašparovič a ČR Václav Klaus na Šafárikovom námestí v Bratislave. Obaja prezidenti si potom porezali výstavu fotografií z augustových udalostí.

• Bratislava mala na konci minulého roku 426.927 obyvateľov. Oproti roku 2006 pribudlo 836 Bratislavčanov. Podľa údajov Pracoviska Štatistického úradu v Bratislave počet obyvateľov hlavného mesta SR predstavuje takmer 70 percent z Bratislavského kraja. V porovnaní s predchádzajúcim rokom je to viac o 4 097, z toho je 2 343 mužov a 1 754 žien.



Do Bratislavských ulíc vyšli na protest proti okupantom tisíce ľudí.