

## The 88th Annual Slovak Day at Kennywood Park – A treasure chest of memories, many to be remembered and still more waiting to be created

by Angela M. Lipchick

The 88th Annual Slovak Day will take place on Thursday, July 21st at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, Pa. It is a day with colorful displays, authentic costumes, a Slovak liturgy, spectacular Slovak dance performances, scrumptious Slovak food, special children's activities, foot-tapping music for dancing, and a treasure chest of memories - many to be remembered and still more waiting to be created.

Slovak Day at Kennywood Park is sponsored by the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association under the leadership of Dolores Sakal and the Rev. Joseph R. Grosko. It is comprised of Slovak organizations from across Western Pennsylvania who come together to recognize all people of Slovak heritage in a day of fun and entertainment. Slovak Day was established in 1923 to celebrate and preserve the Slovak heritage of Western Pennsylvania. Kennywood Park became synonymous with this annual celebration due to easy access via the streetcar line from all regions of Western Pennsylvania. Slovak Day helped give many Slovak families a chance to speak in their own language, socialize with friends, as well as dance and enjoy the rich heritage they brought to this area. This event supports non-profit Slovak organizations of Western Pennsylvania such as the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association, The Vincentian Home,

the Slovak Franciscan friars, the School Sisters of St. Francis, the Slovak Radio Hour, The Pittsburgh Slovaks and The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble. Last year, the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Day Association contributed approximately \$4,000 to these organizations.

The highlight of this year's festivities will be the visiting representatives from the Slovak Embassy in Washington, D.C. The introduction of the Slovak Embassy delegation will take place at the Main Pavilion directly behind "Garfield's Revenge" following the 4 p.m. Slovak Liturgy. The principal celebrant of the liturgy will be the Rev. Thomas Burke, pastor of Good Shepherd Parish in Braddock, Pa. Concelebrants will include priests of Slovak ancestry from the Pittsburgh and Greensburg Dioceses. The liturgical music will be provided by the Rev. Greg Madja. Immediately following the liturgy will be the vibrant repertoire of Slovak music, songs and dances presented by The Pittsburgh Slovaks and The Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble (PAS).

Entertainment at 2 p.m. will be provided by the Pittsburgh Junior Slovaks and the PAS Junior and Maly Ensembles. Also, strolling musicians will perform throughout the picnic area, playing and singing your favorite songs.

Slovak Day activities at Ken-

nywood Park will overflow with music, food, dancing, and displays along with children's activities which begin at 12:30 p.m.

Tantalize your taste buds at the Slovak Kitchen where you will be able to enjoy Halupky (stuffed cabbage), halusky (sweet cabbage and noodles), and klobasy. Your sweet tooth can be satisfied with such homemade favorites as ceregi. Enjoy this delicious dinner or ale carte foods and relax amid the echoes of Slovakia, as strolling musicians play all of the "Slovak favorites." Food will be served in Pavilion #4 behind the ride "Garfield's Revenge" beginning at 1 p.m. and will be provided until the food is sold out.

In Pavilion #3, you will be able to view an exhibit about the Spis Castle prepared by the PAS Junior and Maly Ensembles. Spis Castle is the largest castle complex in Central Europe. The exhibit is a Slovak heirloom of folk treasures that display the incredible skill and artistry of the Slovak villagers.

A special youth area will feature activities just for children. The children's program will include games and treats beginning at 12:30 p.m. by the Main Pavilion. Every child participating in these activities will receive a free treat of a Hot Dog and soft drink. All youth, ages 12 and under, are encouraged to attend.

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## Assembly 79 hosts Annual Group 9 Golf Tournament in Cresson, Pa.

Group 9, "SS. Cyril and Methodius" of Johnstown, Pa. held its annual golf tournament on Saturday, June 18 at the scenic Summit Country Club in Cresson, Pa. Hosting this year's fraternal competition was Assembly 79 of Lilly, Pa. Golfers from Sokol Lodges in Dunlo, Johnstown and Lilly participated in this year's outing.



After enjoying a spirited competition on the beautiful golf course, the Sokols and Sokolky gathered in the facility's Club House for a wonderful reception and victory dinner. Group 9 President Joanne E. Spisak extended a warm fraternal welcome to the fraternal golfers and guests in attendance. She expressed thanks and gratitude to all who had a hand in the success of this year's competition, in particular our host, Assembly 79 along with Robert and Keith Shedlock for their efforts. After enjoying a great meal along with traditional Sokol camaraderie, the awards were distributed to our tournament leaders.

This year's first place winner was Raymond Guzik, a member of Assembly 79 in Lilly. Second place honors went to Robert Shedlock, also of Lilly. In third place was John Pryo, another Lilly golfer. Fourth place honors went to Paul Glovany of Assembly 82 in Dunlo and in fifty place was Keith Shedlock of Lilly.

Skill prizes presented included the Closest to the Pin on Hole #4 won by David Thrower; Closest to the pin on Hole #8 to Corey Shedlock and Closest to the Pin on hole #12 to Keith Shedlock.

Ladies first place honors went to Carol Susko of Assembly 82 in Dunlo. Second place honors went to Trish Gill and third place honors went to Susan Blazosky, both of Dunlo.

I would like to thank Robert Shedlock and his brother Keith for stepping in and taking charge at this year's tournament. I couldn't be there since my son Tom made me an offer I couldn't refuse - a Saturday at the US Open on June 18th. One can't beat a day like that - especially one spent with my son.

Next year, Wreath 14 of Johnstown, Pa. will host our Group 9 Golf Tournament. Thanks again to all our participants for making this year's golf tournament a success. Finally, best wishes go out to all our Group 9 golfers who will be competing at this year's 56th International Golf Tournament scheduled for August 19-21 at Peek'n Peak Resort in Clymer, N.Y. Wishing all a very enjoyable and relaxing summer and looking forward to seeing you at upcoming Group 9 activities, I remain

Zdar Boh!

**Tom Muldoon**

Assembly 79 Sports Director

## Indiana fraternalists to be recognized

The Indiana Fraternal Alliance, formerly the Indiana Fraternal Congress, will offer Adult and Youth Fraternalist of the Year awards recognizing individuals who have provided outstanding volunteer service. An adult and a youth who are members of fraternal benefit societies affiliated with the Indiana Alliance will be chosen for their example and accomplishment have provided service to the local lodge, the society and the community in general are eligible to apply for these awards.

Any member of the Slovak Catholic Sokol for at least two years residing in Indiana may apply for these awards. Anyone between the ages of 12-22 may be nominated for the youth award. Those ages 23 and older may apply for the adult award. Nominees will be judged on activities completed within the last 12 months. A quali-

fied panel of independent judges will choose the winners. The decisions of the judges will be final.

The awards will be presented at the annual meeting of the Indiana Fraternal Alliance on Friday, September 23, 2011. Travel, lodging and meal expenses for the honorees will be provided by the sponsoring societies. In addition to an engraved plaque, honorees will receive a \$100 check to be given to a non-profit, charitable organization of their choice. An application for either of these awards is available by contacting Editor Daniel F. Tanzone at the home office at 800-886-7656. Deadline for the completed application is August 26, 2011. Andrew Harcar, Sr. of the First Catholic Slovak Union of the U.S. and Canada is serving as chairperson of the Fraternalist of the Year Committee of the Indiana Fraternal Alliance.

## Slovak Day Picnic in Old Greenwich, Conn.

The Slovak American Cultural Center of New York will host its 11th annual Slovak Day Picnic on Sunday, August 7 at Greenwich Point Park in Old Greenwich, Conn. Festivities begin at 12 noon and will include all things Slovak - music, food, beer, homemade pastries along with sports activities for all ages. Tickets are \$35.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children ages 6 to 18. Make check payable to S-ACC and send same to: Adelka Darula, 28 High St., Greenwich, Conn. 06830. For additional information on this year's picnic call Adelka at tel. (203)531-9532 or adelkadarula@aol.com.

Greenwich Point Park is located on Tod's Driftway in Old Greenwich. The park is conveniently located off Exit 5 of I-95. Turn right at exit ramp/light. Turn right again at next light onto Sound Beach Avenue. Continue passing park on right. Turn right onto Shore Road. Follow Shore Road over causeway into Greenwich Point. Area Sokol members are invited to enjoy a wonderful summer afternoon with a distinctly Slovak flavor.

## Vicky Kurak Honored by New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan



Vicky, affectionately known as Tory, Kurak, shown on the above photo far left, has been an outgoing volunteer and promoter of church activities since her grammar school days at Most Holy Trinity School in Yonkers, N.Y. where her teachers were the Sisters of SS. Cyril and Methodius. She continues to remain active at Most Holy Trinity Parish even though she no longer resides in Yonkers. She served as the chairperson of this year's Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal at Most Holy Trinity which had as its theme "Sharing God's Gifts." Under Tory's leadership the Yonkers parish exceeded its goal by more than 20 percent and raised more than \$18,000 towards the appeal which supports many outreach projects serving the poor sponsored by the Archdiocese of New York. Her hard work was recognized as Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan inducted Tory, as one of seven individuals from the nearly 400 parishes of the New York Archdiocese, into the Stewardship Appeal Hall of Fame at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie in Yonkers, N.Y. on June 10. This year's appeal help to raise more than \$18 million. Tory is shown above with Archbishop Dolan and the others inducted into the Appeal Hall of Fame. Tory is our long-time member of Assembly 219 and has been an active Sokolka all her life, including participating in our national Slets. She is a wonderful faith-filled individual who is a credit to our Cyrilo-Methodian heritage. She embodies the highest ideals of service and outreach which are the hallmarks of the fraternal benefit system. Tory is the daughter of Victoria Rehak Kurak and the late Emil Kurak. She hails from a 100% Sokol family. Again our congratulations and Zdar Boh!

# Scenes of the Final Liturgy Celebrated in Sacred Heart of Jesus Slovak Church Trinity Sunday, June 19 + Wilkes-Barre, Pa.



## PAS in Florida

### A Magical Reason to Celebrate by Angela Lipchick

March 2011: The Pittsburgh Area Slovak(PAS) Folk Ensemble performed at Disney World in Orlando, Florida and at the 59th annual Florida Slovak Day at The Slovak Garden cultural complex in Winter Park, Florida.

On March 4, 2011 PAS debuted its new 25-minute program from the Zemplin region(East) and Central Slovakia at the Waterside Stage in Downtown Disney. Disney Performing Arts is celebrating its 26th year by providing an opportunity for special groups from around the world to entertain at a world famous attraction. Group selection for the "Disney Show" represents a legacy of millions of performers who have graced the stages of the Walt Disney World Resort. Disney Performing Arts are quality events with a great reputation. These delightful events are arranged so that performance groups have the opportunity to show their skills at a world-famous attraction. Over the years, the Magic

Music Days programs have grown in popularity so much so that it requires performing groups to apply for acceptance into the program. After successful auditioning, PAS received the honor to perform in downtown Disney on the Waterside stage, which is the premier venue at Walt Disney World. Because of Disney's high standard of expectations, it is a tremendous honor for any group to be chosen to participate.

On March 6th, the ensemble also performed at the 59th annual Florida Slovak Day at The Slovak Garden complex in Winter Park. Everyone was excited to attend this event which celebrates our Slovak heritage in the Sunshine State. PAS presented a 25-minute presentation of songs and dances from the various regions of Slovakia.

PAS continues to have an exciting schedule throughout 2011. Don't miss out on the chance to see the group in your area. Check the following schedule and mark your cal-

endars and plan to see PAS present a colorful and entertaining program.

#### 2011 Summer & Fall

PAS will be performing at the 88th annual Slovak Day of Western Pennsylvania at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin, Pa. on Thursday, July 21st.

They will also perform on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, August 16, 17 and 18 at the International Village in Renziehausen Park in McKeesport, Pa.

They are scheduled to perform on Sunday, November 6 at the 21st annual Slovak Heritage Festival in the Cathedral of Learning Commons Room at the University of Pittsburgh located in the Oakland section of the city.

They will present their program at the Fourth Annual Heritage Holidays Weekend at the Heinz History Center on Saturday, November 19 at 4 p.m. and on Sunday, November 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Senator John Heinz History Center is located in downtown Pittsburgh, Pa.

For additional information on PAS the Pittsburgh Area Slovak Folk Ensemble, contact Melanie Kopanic-Feighner at mobile: (814)934-5323, www.PASFolkensemble.com.

*(Editor's note: We have noticed a number of returned copies of our Falcon due to incorrect addresses of our members. We ask that when individuals move, that they complete the form below for a change of address or call the home office. We thank you for your continued cooperation)*

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR REQUEST FOR SLOVAK CATHOLIC FALCON

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