VĚSTNÍK

A newsletter of
Sokol San Francisco
http://www.sokolsf.org

SUMMER
2018





Sokol San Francisco Members at Staroměstské Náměstí after the Slet Parade.

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JOIN US AT SOKOL SF'S

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

10.20.2018

11AM - 4PM

ORINDA COMMUNITY CENTER


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IMAGE LABELS

Vestnik Title: Sokol San Francisco Sisters and Brothers who represented us at the XVI. Vsesokolsky Slet in Prague on July 1 to 6, 2018. Second row, left to right: Lida O'Donnell, Teresa O'Donnell, Milos Zivny. First row, left to right: Paul Burda, Karen Sargis, Jara Dusatko, Renata Komarek, Jana Wichova, Zelda Zivny, Lea Bronec.

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Figure 01 Princezna Republika performers created linden tree leaves and blossoms on the stadium grass, celebrating 100 years of Czechoslovakia. In the middle of the picture, you can recognize the group of San Francisco Sokol members. They form a part of the linden tree leaf. All together 1,152 women and men performed this beautiful composition.

Figure 02 Younger members of our Sokol performed Cesta, a swift and optimistic composition, half calisthenics, half dance. It was a first Slet for most of our Sokol San Francisco Sisters and they performed beautifully. Cesta was presented by 1, 562 young women.

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Figure 03 Pavel Soltys presented and interviewed Edita Brychta, Czech/English/American actress, in Q & A session following the movie Accumulator

Figure 04 Czech That Film - reception after the screening

Figure 05 On Sunday June 3rd eight members of SF Sokol visited Filoli's Annual Flower Show: (from the left) J. Wichova, J. Dusatko, J. Cambus, E. Gubisova, D. Feddersen, L. Bronec, A. Bardos, sitting M. Harvey (+ 2 friends with children)

Figure 06 Dinner and Dance evening as we know and enjoy it: Good music and a lot of dancing for everybody regardless of age.

Figure 07 Family Jansa at the Dinner/Dance, performing popular Czech folk songs. From left to right: Lenka Jansa, her sons Ivo and Peta, and a proud father of the family, Petr.

Figure 08 Nicole Masar was the evening's beautiful surprise. She is an accomplished singer, and everybody enjoyed her sweet, clear voice. Her mother Mima accompanied her on a guitar and her sister Dominica on a violin.

Figure 09 Singing is always a part of Sokol picnics. Bohousek Botcha has a rich repertoire of Czech, Slovak, and American songs which he performed at the Picnic on June 2.

Figure 10 Spring Picnic on June 2 brought more than 60 people to Lake Chabot Park for an afternoon barbecue, food and fun.

President's Note

Sokol Slets in Prague represent a culmination of Sokol activities in the Czech Republic and in the whole world. Traditionally, Slets are held every six years, with the exception of years during World War I, World War II, and during the communist era.

XVI. All Sokol Slet (XVI. Vsesokolsky Slet) this year had an added significance as it took place on the 100th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's founding in 1918. Indeed, this Slet was special. Thirteen spectacular compositions were impressive and unforgettable; beautifully delivered by performers of all ages. Each composition had its own particular beauty and each was rewarded by an enthusiastic applause!

The opening and closing ceremonies focused on the rich Czech history, while balancing it with tasteful level of patriotism.

During the traditional parade, spectators had a chance to greet Sokols not only from various domestic regions, but also from foreign countries – such as USA, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, Austria, Serbia, Denmark, Germany, and France.

COS prepared detailed daily schedules of rehearsals and performances for all units. In addition, they provided information about various cultural events taking place in Prague - exhibitions, tours, concerts, folklore bands, and marionette performances.

One composition in particular stood out – it was "Together", created by Czech and Slovak authors specifically for Czech and Slovak youth. It was not just very impressive, but also physically challenging. It was designed to show the friendship and closeness between the two nations.

What else was special about this year's Slet?

-Two of the ten Sokol San Francisco participants exercised in 1948 Slet as a children, and this year they performed seniors (P. Burda and M. Zivny)

- Six new and young members of our Unit enthusiastically performed in the largest composition "Cesta"
- One evening we were welcomed by cymbal band "Muzicka", who performed at our last year's Czech celebration in Orinda
- Two members of the Czech Parliament invited our group to tour the historical building of the House of Commons

Overall this XVI. Vsesokolsky Slet was a big success. Sokol is still alive! Long live Sokol!

Congratulations and thank you to all Sokol San Francisco participants for an excellent representation!

Jara Dusatko,
President of Sokol SF

Sletove ohlasy

Good Morning Jana –We would like to thank you and all the sisters from San Francisco for helping us with the Cesta calisthenics.

We appreciate the extra time you gave to us to learn parts of the Cesta we did not know.

Thank you for your patience with us! We are very thankful for all you did to get us to perform the Cesta on Friday at the Eden Arena with all of you!

It was very nice to meet all of you from San Francisco as well as our sisters from the Czech Republic! We hope to see you again, maybe in Chicago in 2021 for our Slet!

NaZdar! Kathy Barcal
National Physical Director ASO.

Good Morning Milos – I just wanted to send you an email to thank you for all of your assistance with us and our participation in the Cesta calisthenics. We appreciate the emails you sent and also helping us to work with our sisters from San Francisco. We had a very memorable time in Prague and especially memorable time being a part of the Cesta performance on Friday.

It was nice to see you at the parade and meeting your granddaughter! Have a great summer!

Thank you again! NaZdar! Kathy Barcal
National Physical Director AS

Jaro, bylo to krasne, stalo to za vsechnu tu namahu, skoda, ze to je u konce.

Teresa a ja, jako prespolni sokolove, si uvedomujeme, kolik prace vam v SF to vsechno dalo. Jsme moc vdecne.

Moc te zdravim, Lida

Mila Jarko, mela jsem ohromne zazitky ze Sletu. A jsem velice hrda, ze jsem mohla reprezentovat v pruvodul, pak na stadionu, San Francisco Sokol. Bylo mi cti byt soucasti priprav na 100 let oslavy vzniku Ceskoslovenka i mse v katedrale Svateho Vita, pruvodu a naseho predstaveni i tak byt zapojena do zaverecneho obrazce a ukonceni Sletu. Jsem moc vdecna Jane, ze nas tak velmi dobre pripravila na nasi skladbu peclivym nacvicovanim a trpelivosti. Musim rici, ze to nebylo snadne delat na plny pracovni uvazek, pohotovost neboli on-call, psat reprezentacni slohy/ praci na vyssi postup v praci a do toho nacvicovat skladbu. Ale zvladly jsme to a ted mame krasne vzpominky nejen na tu pripravu, ale i na Prahu, pruvod, nove pratele, zazitky a na to, ze jsme byly soucasti neceho ohromneho. Moje rodina, byla v Praze na patecnim predstavenim a byli vsichni dojati, ze se sami zapalili a uvazuji o clenstvi Sokola a na vystupovani na pristim Sletu. RenataKomarek

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SOKOL CONVENTION 2018

Jean Hruby, American Sokol President

Four years ago I stood in front of all of you – stunned that I was chosen to represent this organization as your President. More like a deer in the headlights, I wasn't sure where that journey was going to lead me. I have to say that I have learned so much over the last four years - gaining the knowledge and emerging to become a better leader. Today, instead of a timid deer I feel as though I have become a "lion with strength" or a "soaring falcon on a wing." I am very proud to have been elected for another four-year term serving as President of American Sokol. Together we have accomplished so much in the past four years and I am energized to be able to see continuity in our organization. The last four years was filled with many grand events. The next four years will be introspective and allow us to focus on strengthening our "inner core" while we have many new Board members with innovative minds that will provide us with a wonderful blend to show us what we need to improve our administration. We have the opportunity to develop effective plans for each of our departments. Each of our new Executive Board members has great energy and knowledge to see us through the term with new ideas for the organization. Congratulation to our new National Physical Directors, Kathy Barcal and Patricia Satek! Together, the two of you will bring successful ideas to our BOI. Thank you for taking on these roles. We have been very busy since the Convention, at the end of April. We can't wait to share the experiences and journey of American Sokol's in Europe at the Slet in Prague, and we can't wait to begin our work when we return in July. I want to personally thank every Sokol Unit and Delegate who gave their time to attend the Convention and participate in the historic decisions that will keep American Sokol moving into the future. Our Convention Committees prepared their material so well, that we were able to make decisions and finish early. We also owe a lot of credit to the Convention Committee that organized the logistics and entertainment. Once again Cleveland proved to be a perfect location to host the Convention on all levels. Thank you Sokol Greater Cleveland and Northeastern District for your outstanding hospitality and creativity to show all of us a great time while we gathered for such serious business in our organization. I still am smiling at the names of the "race horses" that gave us some big wins at our "Night at the Races."

As we move forward, it is always important for me to remember those that have left us this past year. Recently American Sokol mourned the death Brother Ed Schnabl, husband of Sister Ellen Jeanne. It is in the death of our founding members that we also find strength to continue their mission for Sokol. I vow to you, as President, that I will continue to serve you and our organization as a democratic leader pursuant of the Sokol ideals set forth by our founders. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue this path with the passion I have for Sokol and our rich history. I am very excited about the Slet in Prague and sharing it with all of you that will be there and with those of you that will read about it in subsequent issues.

Ať žije Sokol! ~ Long Live Sokol! Nazdar!

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VĚSTNÍK

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Sokol Board and Members Meeting is held second Tuesday or Saturday of the month.
Place will be announced

! A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body - V zdravém těle zdravý duch - Miroslav Tyrs

2018

Sokol San Francisco current membership

70 Members
39 females, 31 males

Donations 2018:
Anonymus Sponsor $100.00,
Jarmila Dlask $14.00, Henry J. Sredl $50.00, Frank & Alena Picha $10.00, Christian J. Rousset $20.00, Jiri Kucera $50,00 in Memory of his father Jan Kucera sr., Victor Machacek $24.00, Milan & Regina Prejda $18.00, Ludvik Mlynek $4.00, Birgit Cuda $50,00 in Memory of her husband Frank
Total: $340.00
Dear Sokol members, donations are truly appreciated

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2018

DATE	EVENT	PLACE
September 8, Saturday	Fall Picnic	Lake Chabot, Castro Valley, CA
October 20, Saturday	100 years of Czechoslovakia	Orinda Community Center
November 10	Walk for Health	Jewel Lake, Tilden Park
November **	Hockey Night	San Jose
November **	Puppet Theatre	Orinda Community Center
November **	Filoli Christmas Decoration	Filoli Park, Woodside
December 9. Sunday	Demo of Cz. Christmas cookies	Orinda Community Center
December 16, Sunday	Annual meeting, Christmas carols	Crowne Plaza Hotel, Foster City

** The Entertainment Committee needs to make a decision, the dates are tentative and might be changed.

XVI. všesokolský slet, Praha 1. – 6. 7. 2018
The 16th All-Sokol Festival, Prague July 1st – 6th, 2018

After the *slet* in 2012, I expressed hope that we would be together again at the 16th *slet* in 2018, the year of the 100th anniversary of founding the Czechoslovak Republic. Indeed we were! And as one of the members of Sokol San Francisco who participated in the last three *slets* (festivals), I came back from Prague thinking that this was the best *slet* of them all.

The program of every *slet* follows a traditional pattern. *Sletový týden* (the festival week) starts Sunday morning with a parade through downtown and an afternoon mass at the Cathedral. Then start the rehearsals at the stadium while various cultural activities, including a gala performance, take place throughout the city. The final culmination of all the events are the two performances, on Thursday evening and on Friday afternoon.

This year the parade was on Sunday, July 1st. The early morning was pleasant with a little breeze unfurling the beautiful Sokol flags. It was wonderful to see Sokols from all corners of the Czech Republic and from around the world, to meet old friends and to talk to people we have never seen before. There are no strangers where Sokols are gathered. We marched to the cheers of people standing on the sidewalks and to the music of bands stationed every few blocks. We handed out to many extended hands small versions of American and Sokol San Francisco flags.

Later, the mass at St. Vitus Cathedral at the Castle was for Sokols only, with tight security at the doors. The Cathedral was completely full, many people were standing in the aisles without being able to see the altar; they could at least watch Cardinal Dominik Duka, the Archbishop of Prague, on huge television screens.

The Sokol march *Lví silou vzletem sokolím kupředu kráčejme ...* (With the strength of a lion, with the soaring of a falcon, let us march forward ...) thundered from the organ at the choir loft.

For Sokols from the San Francisco and Los Angeles, the festival week actually started on Saturday night. We met at the *sokolovn*a (hall) of Sokol Malá Strana at Újezd, at the foot of the Petřín hill, and for three hours practiced our routine.

Our leader and teacher was Otto Notzl. Just as he did at our intensive weekend practice in May in San Leandro, he patiently repeated the routine with us, over and over again, helping us to clarify the difficult passages. Thank you, Otto! Without you we could not have done it.

This year the composition for seniors was called *Princezna republika* based on songs by Karel Hašler. Authors of the composition were again the Kocmich sisters.

Initially we were worried about this composition. It seemed extremely complex and confusing, and it also was longer than compositions in previous years. In May Dagmar Hintnaus and her husband Jim Birstow joined the six members of Sokol San Francisco. They live in Sacramento and are members of Sokol Los Angeles, as is Cheri Riddle who lives in Fresno and also trained with us. With more people the movements became easier as we could see the patterns the authors envisioned in their choreography but we still short one person. It is not easy when in a prescribed move you are stretching an arm to connect with another member of your formation and instead you are reaching into an empty space. That space was filled only when we met that Saturday in Prague: Joan Sedlacek, a member of Sokol Minnesota from Saint Paul, joined us. A brave woman, she was the only representative from Minnesota. It felt good to have our block of nine complete and to be in a large gym with Sokols from Los Angeles, Detroit and Cleveland.

We continued with our practice on Sunday evening, this time in a special private practice with the authors of the composition, sisters Lenka and Blanka Kocmichs. Again it was a great honor to shake the hand of their mother, Blažena Kocmichová, age 96, whom we met six years ago and who participated in all the slets through 2012. She is a living proof of the Sokol motto *V zdravém těle zdravý duch* (Healthy mind in health body). We did quite well and the Kocmichs were pleased with our efforts.

Then on Monday the official rehearsals started at the stadium at the Eden Arena, known also as the Slavia Stadium in Prague Vršovice. They were at least once a day, sometimes twice. On Thursday, the day of the first program in the evening, there were two rehearsals, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, for the second program on Friday. During the rehearsals we spent much time standing and waiting at the gathering space behind the stadium and then moving through the tunnels under the tribunes.

The first program of large group performances was on Thursday at 9 pm. There was still enough light (Prague is much further to the north than San Francisco) when the opening ceremony started. The Czech national anthem, the presentation of the Czech, Slovak and Sokol flags, speeches, three horses with riders symbolizing President Masaryk, a Czech, Minister Milan Rastislav Štefánik, a Slovak, and a Sokol dressed in the traditional uniform carrying a flag. The theme of this Slet was the celebration of the foundation of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918.

The Seniors, *Věrná garda*, all 1,152 of them, were lined up at the perimeter of the stadium opposite the main tribune waiting to start the composition.

The Sokol experience has pulled the strings of my heart. Given the history of the Sokol organization, I was deeply touched by the long involvement of members Sokol San Francisco:

XI. *slet* in 1948

the last *slet* before Sokol was shut down, Pavel Burda, Jarmila Dlask, Alena Picha, Marta Sehnal, Milos Zivny and Zelmira Zivny participated. (See VĚSTNÍK, spring 2018.)

XII. *slet*, in 1994

in the renewed organization, Jana Wichova participated in the women's composition.

XIII. *slet* in 2000

Teresa O'Donnell, one year after graduating from high school, participated in the women's composition *Praporce* (banners).

XIV. *slet* in 2006

Pavel Burda, Jara Dusatko, Lida O'Donnell, and also Ivanka and Peter Linhart, participated in the *Věrná garda* (loyal guard) composition called *Ta nase pisnicka ceska.*

XV. slet in 2012

Pavel Burda, Jara Dusatko, Lida O'Donnell, Teresa O'Donnell, Milos Zivny and Zelmira Zivny, *Věrná garda,* participated. The composition was called *Jen pro ten dnesni den.*

XVI. slet in 2018

Pavel Burda, Jara Dusatko, Lida O'Donnell, Teresa O'Donnell, Jana Wichova and Milos Zivny, *Věrná garda,* participated in *Princezna republika.*

I was also thinking that something completely new and amazing happened this year:
There has been a remarkable interest in the *slet* and a growth in the number of participants from Sokol San Francisco. Young women performed in a composition for women called *Cesta.* They were: Lea Bronec, Renata Komarek, Teresa O'Donnell, Karin Sargis, Jana Wichova and Zelda Zivny. Zelda, at 18, was the youngest member of the group and the youngest member of Sokol San Francisco. Women from San Francisco were joined by four women from Sokol Spirit from Brookfield, Illinois. Together they had the distinction of being the only American women among the 1,562 participants and, I believe, they were also the only women not from the Czech Republic.

Lea and Renata proudly carried the flags of Sokol San Francisco and Pacific District in the opening ceremonies. During the closing they were part of the group forming the Czech and the Sokol flags. They are clearly visible in the video from Czech TV: ***This is the link to the opening ceremony and Princezna.***
https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/12359453265-xvi-vsesokolsky-slet-2018/218471291472002/
This is the link to the Cesta, which starts at 35:00 minutes.
https://www.ceskatelevize.cz/porady/12359453265-xvi-vsesokolsky-slet-2018/218471291472003/

And of course Teresa and Jana, in addition to *Cesta,* participated in the *Věrná garda.* Sometimes their rehearsals for both compositions took all day and during the Friday performance they had to run to change their uniforms.
When we came to the end of our composition, we stood on the field forming leaves and blossoms of the Czech national tree, *lípa* (linden tree), with our arms raised in a large V. To the last tones of the music the spectators applauded and cheered, and as we marched off the stadium I saw also tears of emotions.

Lida O'Donnell with the help of Teresa O'Donnell

Theater Viola.

On May 5th, children and adults alike were treated to a performance by Prague's renowned Theater Viola. Three entertainers crossed the world to showcase songs, rhymes, to tell beloved fairytales, and - most importantly - delight the audience, which came to Orinda's Community Center. Perhaps best of all, the audience participated in the performance, as children worked together to pull a turnip (one of the fathers from the audience) out of the ground, and answered riddles for sweet treats as a reward. Many of the spectators remarked at the authenticity of the performance (which was entirely in Czech) and praised the

actors for their remarkable array of traditional props, all of which were stuffed into suitcases for each of the performances that were shown across the U.S. We felt lucky and are grateful to the Theater for visiting us in the Bay Area and will look forward to a future visit by them. And a big thank you to all of the Sokol members who helped make the visit possible - we couldn't have done it without you!

Linda Janourova-Tang

Czech That Film 2018

The annual Czech film festival titled "Czech That Film" has been established in 2012. Currently, it is the largest Czech cultural event in the United States. This year's edition reached 19 major US and Canadian cities. Festival is organized and sponsored by Czech Ministry of Foreign Affair and supported by Czech Centers, Lucerna Film and local sponsors including BayCzech, Avast, Sokol SF and others. The festival always visits San Francisco and traditionally takes place at Roxie Cinema in the Mission district.

This year was no exception. Festival took place between 20th and 22nd of April and presented three new films from 2018 Czech production: The Quartette (Kvarteto] by Miroslav Krobot, Ice Mother (Bába z ledu) from director Bohdan Sláma and Barefoot (Po strništi bos) made by Jan Svěrák, who was also the festival's featured guest when festival visited Washington D.C. and Los Angeles. Due to scheduling conflicts, he could not make it to San Francisco. This gave us all the opportunity to meet another visiting celebrity, Czech/English/American actress Edita Brychta, who starred in the fourth movie presented this year, now classic sci-fi comedy drama Accumulator 1. This matrix-style parabola about anxieties of modern life was the most popular movie in the Czech Republic in 1994. Edita Brychta, who now lives in Los Angeles, was a delightful guest.

The audience thorouhly enjoyed the film, introduced by BayCzech president Pavel Soltys who also presented and interviewed Edita Brychta in Q & A session following the movie.

We are all looking forward to the next year's edition of this popular event that brings together everyone who is interested in the Czech art and culture.

Pavel Soltys
BayCzech

Beautiful Filoli

Designed between 1915 ~ 1917 and set against the dramatic backdrop of the northern Santa Cruz Mountains in Woodside, California, Filoli is an excellent example of the Golden Age of American garden design and country house architecture. Filoli is recognized as one of the finest remaining country estates of the early 20th century and is a cherished resource for the community valuing education, volunteerism and diversity.

On Sunday June 3rd eight members of SF Sokol visited Filoli's Annual Flower Show, which is a premier showcase of floral arrangements and exhibits by professional designers and talented amateurs in the Bay

Area. This year's theme is *California Kaleidoscope* in honor of the rich history and environment of California. First we saw a movie about Filoli's history at visitor center, then we took house tour, where we enjoyed different floral arrangements at each room, and finally we visited Filoli's conservatory and gardens. At the end of the tour we refreshed our self at Filoli's cafe with coffee and pastries.

What a wonderful visit! Let's repeat it the next year again. Lea Bronec

Filoli Flower Show

About 10 of us gathered to visit the Filoli Flower Show in Woodside on June 3, and it was amazing! Our experience was greatly enhanced by the expertise of Lea Bronec who is very familiar with the Mansion and its extensive gardens. Exotic and fanciful flowers filled each of the numerous rooms. The sponsoring floral shops competed for our attention as each artistic arrangement seemed to surpass the previous ones in beauty and originality.
We ended our tour in the gift shop and café, enjoying coffee, wine, and pastries. It was a very enjoyable day.

Jean Cambus

Sokol Spring Dinner Dance

What a wonderful way to welcome in Spring by having a fun celebration with our Sokol Members and friends on April 14th! Fifty-seven guests started off the evening, with a delicious buffet meal featuring Braised Beef Short Ribs, Pan Seared Salmon and Porcini Crusted Mushroom Chicken complimented by a variety of salads and side dishes. Our dinner was completed with my favorite desserts of Hazelnut Tiramisu and Ghirardelli Chocolate Cake.

Dancing started right after dinner with lively music from Joe Domitrowich's Alpine Band. It was hard to pick which was our favorite music to dance to with such a wide variety to pick from. Our guests could waltz, polka or do hip hop if they choose. The snake dance got almost everyone up on the dance floor and culminated in the "Chicken dance" where we were swinging around with new partners while laughing and trying to keep up with the music. Great fun and great exercise too.

I must admit the most impressive part of the entire evening was the entertainment provided by the children of our Czech and Slovak members. The Jansa family with two older sons Petr & Ivo recited a Czech poem then sang Czech songs while they played the ukulele. These young boys touched our hearts with their sincere performances. During the second dance break the Masar Family with Dominica and Natalia (13) played violins, Lucas (11) on the Piano, Nicole (14) singing and mother Mima on the guitar. We could not get enough as we listened to their embracing music including Slovak traditional songs and American favorites. Many of us teared up as we listened to their youngest daughter's angelic voice as she Nicole sang "Halleluiah." We feel so blessed to have so much talent within Sokol.

The raffle ended the evening with jolly winners who took home chocolates, beer, wine and gift cards. We found it to be true that those that bought more tickets, such as Brother David Sampson had more chances to win and took home more than one prize. We are pleased to say that the raffle made money which helps us fund the next Dinner Dance.

Mark your calendars for the Holiday-New Year Dinner Dance in 2019 which will be January 5. I know it

sounds like it is eons away so in the meantime we have other festive activities planned such as the next Sokol picnic at Lake Chabot on Sept. 8th and the 100th year celebration of the founding of Czechoslovakia which will be on October 20th. It will be an event to remember so block out those dates as soon as you can.

By Helenka Livingston

Sokol Spring Picnic

The spring picnic is traditionally our largest outdoor event and so it was this year, on beautiful day, on Saturday June 2. The day was starting slowly, first guests arriving just after 10 a.m., and then the trickle of people did not stop. One Sokol member after another, one family after another, with coolers, baskets and strollers with the youngest participants and some older kids running around. This was, after all, Children's Day Celebration and the kids from Czech School were ready to enjoy their day. So were the parents, gathering around the BBQ, grilling and chatting, meeting old friends and making new acquaintances. Soon, the tables were full of food and smell of sausages of all kinds wafted from the grill.

It is always a pleasure for our seasoned Sokol group to see and welcome the young families, some of them already Sokol members, some of them thinking of joining in the future. Sokol is here for everybody within the Czech and Slovak community but it could not last forever without new members, without people who will organize the picnics, dinner/dances, Christmas cookie bakes and Czech musician's concerts and performances not only today but ten or fifteen years down the row. This year, the Czech community future was all around us. We were happy to have the best Chabot Park picnic place with an open grass space for playing games, for competing and running and just enjoying a warm spring day. Thank you, Helenka Livingston for securing the Mallard place again, it was really in good use with around sixty five guests and with space enough for children's games organized by Czech School teachers and parents.

The picnic also offered us an opportunity to meet the new Czech School Principal, Helena Soukupova and renew closer contacts and cooperation of the two important parts of the Bay Area Czech community, Sokol and Czech School.

Everybody enjoyed the beautiful day and great, younger company at the Spring Picnic. We will see each other again in September.

Zelmira Zivny

Thank you, Sokol San Francisco

for giving me this opportunity to share my experiences from the Slet in Prague with you.

It was my first Slet in Prague with Sokol San Francisco. I never would have imagined that I would be able to exercise on Slet in Prague with another group other than Czechs. It was truly an unforgettable experience. I would first of all like to thank Milos Zivny for his organizational help and Otto Notzl for his help in training. Jara, Lida, Tereska, Renato, Leo, Karin, Zeldo, Milos and Pavel, thank you. You showed me the soul of Sokol San Francisco. It is incredible. I have to again say, that I am proud to be a member of Sokol San Francisco.

Jana Wichova

United States and Birth of Czechoslovakia

On June 19, 1918 American President Woodrow Wilson met with Tomas G. Masaryk.

The meeting was a result of Masaryk's long and hard work , successful political campaign in the U.S. and a support of influential American friends of Czechs and Slovaks. The most important of them was an industrialist philanthropist Charles R. Crane who invited Masaryk to lecture at the University of Chicago in 1902 and who established a foundation for Slavic Studies there. Charles Crane happened to be an old friend of the then President of Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson. Now, in the year of 1918, Woodrow Wilson was the President of the United States and he listened to his friend and learned about the problem of Slavic nations within Austria-Hungary.

Soon after the President Wilson and Tomas Masaryk meeting, the American Secretary of State announced that all Slavic people will be liberated from German and Austrian oppression.

On September 3, 1918, the U.S. government recognized the Czechoslovak National Council as the official representative of the future Czechoslovak state and Czechoslovak Legions as part of the fighting armies of the Allies. The way from Austro-Hungarian Empire to Czechoslovak Republic was opened.

On October 17, the Declaration of Independence of Czechoslovakia was ready, accepted by American friends and telegraphed to Paris to Edvard Benes and to Vladivostok to Milan Rastislav Stefanik. The independence of Czechoslovakia was formally proclaimed by Masaryk in the Washington Declaration on October 18.,1918.

"I do not have to tell you how moved I was reading your statement of independence," wrote President Wilson to Masaryk in response to the Declaration.

On October 23, Masaryk called a convention of Democratic Union of Central Europe. This body represented 10 million of Slavic immigrants in the United States and 65 million of people of Central Europe.

October 28 to 30. The information that the Emperor sent President Wilson a note according to which Austria-Hungary would accept all conditions for an armistice was reported in Prague. While people were demonstrating their support to an independent Czechoslovakia, the members of the National Committee issued an official text proclaiming independence. What mattered now was to gain control over the organs of government. The Members of the National Committee moved into the office of Governor and the Military Command and without any resistance from paralyzed representatives of the Monarchy, the administrative power was transferred without any violence.

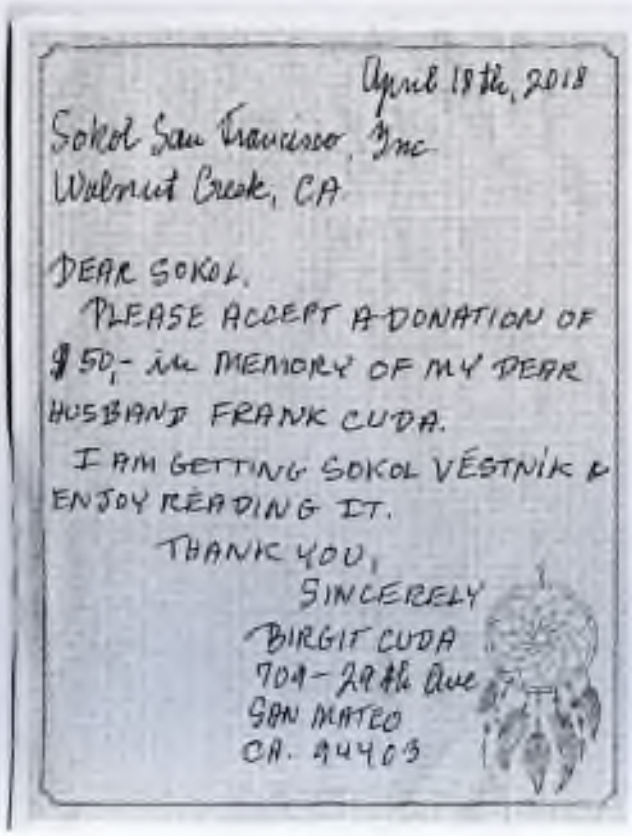
On November 14, the Parliament of the new country met for the first time. Karel Kramar, future prime minister of Czechoslovakia, presented Tomas Garrigue Masaryk as a candidate for the President of Czechoslovak Republic. Cheers, applause, and loud approval came in response. No election was held, no votes were counted, and Karel Kramar announced that Thomas G. Masaryk was the President of Czechoslovakia. Masaryk's authority and the respect of the nation was such that nobody questioned the way he was introduced to his position. Masaryk was elected in a regular way, in democratic election in May 1920.

On November 20, Masaryk left the United States for London and Paris. He visited Czech Legionnaires in France and in Italy and on December 21 finally arrived in Prague. *"I am too moved to speak"*, said Masaryk in his first address as President of Czechoslovak Republic. *"This is the first time in four years that I have been so deeply touched. We know how much work against us and how many difficulties we had to overcome, but we will find a friendly way out.*

Doctor Kramar said that you were impatiently waiting my coming. I also was impatiently awaiting the moment when I should come here to continue your work.

How many sleepless nights I have passed during these four years! I knew you were oppressed and how hard was your task. You are all heroic and strong with a strength which showed that you unitedly back your leaders, though they were exiled. My heart speaks its thanks. I promise that my effort will continue without wavering."

From our reader



April 18th, 2018

Sokol San Francisco, Inc
Walnut Creek, CA

DEAR SOKOL,
PLEASE ACCEPT A DONATION OF $50,- IN MEMORY OF MY DEAR HUSBAND FRANK CUDA.
I AM GETTING SOKOL VĚSTNÍK & ENJOY READING IT.
THANK YOU,
SINCERELY
BIRGIT CUDA
704 - 28th Ave
SAN MATEO
CA. 94403

IN PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS STUDENTS ARE TAUGHT THAT LYING IS A SIN. HOWEVER, TEACHERS ALSO ADVISED THAT USING A BIT OF IMAGINATION WAS OK TO EXPRESS THE TRUTH DIFFERENTLY WITHOUT LYING. BELOW IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THOSE TEACHINGS.

Friko - soup known in southern part of the Czech Republic

I remembered this soup when I was back in the Czech Republic this summer. Every aunt or neighbor is making it this time of the year. You can eat it hot and cold, too.

Ingredients:
2 quarts of water
5 bigger potatoes, cut in small pieces
1 big onion, cut in small pieces
1 pint of whipping cream
5 pc each of allspice, clove, and whole pepper
2 pc of bay leaf
1 tbsp flour
1 tbsp vinegar
2 tbsp olive oil
salt and sugar according to taste
boiled eggs or marinated mushrooms for serving

Heat oil in a large pot, add onions, potatoes, allspice, clove, whole pepper and cook until the onions are nice brown color; about 5 minutes. Add water and bay leaf, bring to boil and let soup simmer until the potatoes are tender. Whisk the whipping cream with flour and add to the pot with the boiling soup. Cook another 5 minutes. Be careful, the soup can spill out of the pot when you add the whipping cream. Now add vinegar. You can serve with boiled eggs or marinated sweet and sour mushrooms. Serves about six.

FRIKO z jižních Čech
https://www.toprecepty.cz/recept/17585-friko-z-jiznich-cech/

Getting a Hairdryer Through Customs.

An attractive young woman on a flight from Ireland asked the Priest beside her, 'Father, may I ask a favour?
'Of course child. What may I do for you?'
'Well, I bought my mother an expensive hair dryer for her birthday. It is unopened but well over the Customs limits and I'm afraid they'll confiscate it. Is there any way you could carry it through customs for me? Hide it under your robes perhaps?'
'I would love to help you, dear, but I must warn you, I will not lie.' 'With your honest face, Father, no one will question you.'
When they got to Customs, she let the priest go first. The official asked, 'Father, do you have anything to declare?'
'From the top of my head down to my waist I have nothing to declare.'
The official thought this answer strange, so asked, 'And what do you have to declare from your waist to the floor?' 'I have a marvelous instrument designed to be used on a woman, but which is, to date, unused.'

Roaring with laughter, the official said, 'Go ahead, Father. Next please!'