

A publication of the Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland

February General Meeting

by Lois Hybl

In spite of the remaining piles of icy snow and cold weather, we were pleasantly surprised when 22 people showed up in person, and two attended online at our February 1st hybrid meeting at St. Ursula's Catholic Church in Parkville.

New President Dana Petran thanked outgoing board members President Petr Justin, Treasurer Zuzana LaBuff, and

Board Member Barbara Vann. She introduced the new board members. The members of the CSHA Board of Directors for 2026-2027 are President: Dana Petran, Vice-President: MacLean Lunko, Secretary: Lois Hybl, Treasurer: Robert Horel, and Board Members: Dana Havlik, Zoe Hruban, Ivanka Braun, David Mitchell, Russ Rezek, Margaret Supik, Fran Vojik, Kate Wychgram, and Ann Zelenka.



CSHA Board members and volunteers at the General Meeting (from the left Jarmila Marney, Dana Petran, Dana Havlik, Lois Hybl, McLean Lunko, Robert Hořel)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Children's Language School Spring 2026 semester classes resumed in the second week of January. The Czech beginner's class meets on Mondays at 4:00 PM. Advanced speakers will meet on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. Slovak Language children's classes continue to meet on Sundays. Beginners meet at 9:00 AM, and advanced speakers will meet at 10:00 AM. For more information or to register a student, please visit our website at www.cshamaryland.org

ADULT LANGUAGE SCHOOL

CSHA is one of the few organizations in the USA that offers Czech and Slovak language instruction for adults. Online classes are offered on Saturday mornings. Second-Year Czech, Intermediate Czech, and Intermediate Slovak classes meet at 9:00 AM. Beginning Slovak meets at 11:00 AM. Beginning Czech and Czech Conversation meet at 11:15 AM. The Spring 2026 semester started on January 17 and will end on April 18, 2026. Beginners should plan to wait for fall classes because classes are continuing from the fall semester. For more information, contact Lois Hybl at 410-428-6012 or e-mail: info@cshamaryland.org.

HERITAGE SINGERS:

We welcome singers of all voice parts. Contact Margaret Supik (443-739-2025) for more information or if you want to join. Future events will be announced on the CSHA website www.cshamaryland.org and our Facebook page.

CSHA ONLINE - For more information about any of these activities, joining Heritage Singers or to register for classes, you can contact CSHA at: info@cshamaryland.org.

The CSHA Board of Directors will respond to your questions and provide the requested information. We would like to hear your ideas and suggestions for activities, programs we should consider, and how we can further improve our events. Please check our website www.cshamaryland.org and follow us on Facebook at Czech and Slovak Heritage Association of Maryland.

JANUARY 2026

The CSHA General Meeting was held in-person on Sunday, February 1, 2026, from 2 PM- 4 PM at the St. Ursula Catholic Church, 8801 Harford Road, Parkville. The new CSHA Board was introduced and discussed the organization's budget, Czech and Slovak language schools, as well as future events. We encourage all our members to follow our website for details regarding future events and how to get involved with CSHA activities.

MAY 2026

The 5th CSHA Spring Festival is scheduled on Sunday, May 3, 2026, at the Maryland State Game & Fish Protective Association at Perry Hall. It will feature live music by Orchestra Praževica.

CSHA Heritage Singers will perform on Monday, May 25, 2026, at the Memorial Day Celebration at the Bohemian National Cemetery.

OCTOBER 2026

The 38th Annual CSHA Festival will take place at the Legacy Hall in Sykesville on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 12-6 PM. Visit the CSHA website www.cshamaryland.org and our Facebook page for additional details.

DECEMBER 2026

The traditional Christmas Carol singing is tentatively scheduled on Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 2 PM. Mikuláš and Anděl will bring children traditional goodies, and a small reception will follow the celebration. Location TBD.

CSHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

OFFICERS:

President - Dana Petran
Vice President - MacLean Lunko
Secretary - Lois Hybl
Treasurer - Robert Horel

BOARD MEMBERS: alphabetically

Dana Havlik
Zoe Hruban
Ivanka Braun
David Mitchell
Russ Rezek
Margaret Supik
Fran Vojik
Kate Wychgram
Ann Zelenka

HLAS - Dana Havlik - editor
Olga Mendel - graphic design

If you have any suggestions or comments or want to contribute to the Hlas by writing an article, email us at info@cshamaryland.org.

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends of CSHA!

Welcome back to this long-awaited springtime after the cold and harsh weather of the recent winter months. I hope that our Spring issue of this newsletter will find you and yours in good health and good spirits. I would like to thank you for supporting our association with membership, generous donations, and for submitting votes in the recent Board of Directors elections. The result was announced during the General meeting on February 1st, and I am humbled to preside over such a nice, dedicated group of people, some of whom have served in their positions for years, even decades, and others who are young and fresh.

Our big thanks go to our past president, Petr Justin, our past treasurer, Zuzana LaBuff, and a Board member and dedicated volunteer, Barbara Vann. Thank you for all you have done and keep doing for us and with us!

CSHA has a long history of almost four decades. Many of our friends are not with us anymore, and we treasure those memories. They would be happy to see how many young people are joining us today, how our language classes thrive, and how people in today's world freely travel to the countries of their heritage and back. Each of us has a story to tell, and we would like to hear yours as well. Please write to us and come to see us! The upcoming

event will be our fifth Spring Festival, this year on May 3rd. See the invitation poster included in this newsletter.

This year, we would like to introduce you to an old tradition of Majáles. Not sure what it is? For those who have never heard of it, it is a centuries-old celebration of May, life, and love, dating back to the 15th century, by students of higher academia in European countries, especially Bohemia. Young people had their days to celebrate spring, to express their desire, rebellion, sometimes even pranks, to play, sing, and dance on the streets, enjoying food and drinks. In some cities, it becomes a carnival, including costumes, games, and voting for King or Queen of Majáles. This tradition was suppressed during WWII and later by Communists in post-war Czechoslovakia. It came back to life before and during the Prague Spring in the sixties, led by students, of course, just to be prohibited by the communist regime again for the next two decades. But it did not disappear; it just slept, and it became very lively in this century. We would like to introduce our members to this celebration. Please bring your children and your friends along. Maybe some of you have experienced this tradition, please tell us!

We want to show how to build Májka and remember another old, this time folk tradition, and hopefully enjoy the nice weather around the campfire.



Dana Petran - CSHA president

Czech and Slovak Events in Our Community

Photo Competition

Czechs and America at 250

The Embassy of the Czech Republic is celebrating Czech-American ties as the United States marks its 250th anniversary. To honor this milestone, the Embassy invites people across the country to submit photos showcasing Czech contributions to America—whether through historic figures, athletes, community heritage, cultural traditions, or everyday Czech-American life. Submission deadline is **April 30, 2026**. Additional details can be found at the Embassy website: https://mzv.gov.cz/washington/en/culture_events/news/photo_competition_czechs_and_america_at.html

Pajtaši and Limboračik Concert and Dance

April 18, 2026, 6 PM- midnight, St John Nepomucene Church, 411 E 66th St, New York, NY 10065. Performance of our youth, followed by a dance house party, to celebrate our rich Slovak culture. Tickets available at <https://www.ticketbarber.com/e/pajti-vroie> include dinner and nonalcoholic drinks. All proceeds will go to supporting the education of Slovak traditional and folk culture among youth.

Baltimore Sokol's Annual Fundraiser Cartwheel-A-Thon

On **May 31, 2026** Sokol Baltimore hosts the Cartwheel-A-Thon at Paterson Park, Baltimore. It is a fun and energetic fundraiser supporting gym improvements and new equipment. Participants can register through our RallyUp page: <https://sokolbaltimore.rallyup.com/cwat2026> and collect sponsorships. During the event, each participant performs as many skills as possible in three minutes while being timed. Skill categories include Rolls, Handstands, Cartwheels, and Squats (for adults who prefer a non-gymnastics option). The Goal for 2026 is to raise \$10,000. The funds will go toward new wall padding in Gym A, crash mats, and additional upgrades.

Learn to Play Fujara and Koncovka Overtone Flutes and Sing Bohemian, Moravian, and Slovak Folk Songs with Bob Rychlik, Common Ground on the Hill, Maryland Folklife Center, McDaniel College, Westminster, MD Week 1: **June 22-26, 2026**, 3rd period: 1:00 pm Virtual class- Fujara and Koncovka Overtone Flutes of Slovakia <https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/classes/fujara>, Week 2: **July 6-10, 2026**, 1st period: 9:00 am In-person live class at the campus - Folk Songs of Bohemia, Moravia, and Slovakia <https://www.commongroundonthehill.org/classes/bohemia-moravia-and-slovakia>

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We shared a report on our online language schools. Dana Petran and Margaret Supik each teach three children Czech in the Children's School. Jana Galkova in Florida teaches Slovak on Sunday mornings. New children are welcome any time. Lois Hybl reported that 31 students are registered for the Adult School, with 18 studying Czech and 13 studying Slovak. Czech students are taught by Andrea Kletetschka and Iva Zicha. Slovak students are taught by Natalie Karlinsky.

Dana Petran reported that the spring and fall festival lost money last year, but the grant of 100,000 Kc from the Ministry of the Czech Republic helped to offset it. The 2026 fall festival will be Saturday, October 3, because the hall is no longer available on Sundays. The Mikuláš celebration was not held because of the closure of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church. We hope to find another location for Vánoční Koledy - Mikuláš and to have a back-to-school picnic in addition to the spring and fall festivals.

The Heritage Singers need new members who should contact Margaret Supik. The group performs at the Memorial Day service at the Bohemian National Cemetery and the Christmas holiday Carol Singing.

Joe Ehrenberger, vice-president of Sokol, announced that Sokol's library and artifacts have been organized and documented by his wife, Kate. People are welcome to visit Sokol's building at 3218 Noble St. in Baltimore City to view the library and artifacts.

Dana Havlik encouraged people to submit information about events and articles for Hlas that is published quarterly. We discussed the need for monthly emails about events that come up on short notice. Frank Nachodsky requested that we look into ways of sharing old recipes for traditional Czech food. A recipe is included in each HLAS. However, the CSPS at the Bohemian National Cemetery has published such a cookbook. There was discussion about possible documents and artifacts still at St. Wenceslaus Church when it closed. After the meeting, Ann Zelenka sent detailed emails to the board about contacts for investigating this question.

Thanks to MacLean Lunko for arranging for our use of the meeting room and kitchen at St. Ursula's Catholic Church, and to Dana Havlik, Dana Petran, Jarmilka Marney and Kate Wychgram for refreshments of *halušky*, *soup*, *koláče*, and drinks.



Festive treats at the General Board Meeting

Prague Philharmonia US Tour 2026

By Dana Havlik based on *KlasicaPlus.cz*

The Prague Philharmonia, one of the Czech Republic's premier orchestras, enjoys a strong international reputation and regularly appears on major stages and festivals around the world. It was founded in 1994 as the Prague Chamber Philharmonia on the initiative of conductor Jiří Bělohlávek. Currently, it performs under the baton of French conductor Emmanuel Villaume and under the leadership of director Pavel Trojan.

In January 2026, the Prague Philharmonia returned to the United States after 8 years to perform in six cities. The concert tour opened in Vero Beach, Florida, followed by performances at the Curtis M. Phillips Center in Gainesville, the River Center in Columbus, Georgia, the Byers Theatre in Sandy Springs. The concert at the Center for the Performing Arts in Opelika in Alabama had to be cancelled due to the major snowstorm that hit the US East Coast between Georgia and New England a couple of days before the last concert. The orchestra successfully concluded its journey on January 26 with a landmark performance in the Isaac Stern Auditorium at New York's iconic Carnegie Hall.

The program featured works by Beethoven, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and Dvořák, reflecting the European musical heritage that shapes the orchestra's artistic identity. The inclusion of Dvořák held special significance, as the United States celebrated the 250th anniversary of its independence in 2026. Through Dvořák's music—deeply connected to American cultural history—the Prague Philharmonia joined these national commemorations.

A hallmark of the orchestra's mission is its dedication to presenting outstanding young artists poised to influence the future of classical music. For this American tour, the ensemble collaborated with violinist Blake Pouliot, known for his charismatic stage presence and French-Canadian roots, as well as acclaimed American pianist Andrew von Oeyen.

This U.S. tour continued the orchestra's long-standing commitment, established during the tenure of its founder, Jiří Bělohlávek, to cultivating relationships with international audiences and championing Czech music on the world's leading stages. More information about the Prague Philharmonia and their upcoming concerts can be found at www.prgphil.cz



Prague Philharmonia - French horns group at Carnegie Hall - (from the left Mikuláš Koska, Zuzana Meierová, Adéla Psohlavcová, Zdeněk Vašina).

Sokol Baltimore Cultivating Strength, Culture, and Community

by Lindsey Golden

Sokol Baltimore stands as part of a long international tradition dedicated to fostering physical fitness, personal development, and cultural enrichment. It is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping members achieve physical and moral health, good citizenship, and cultural appreciation throughout their lives. The organization's mission emphasizes a balance of individual effort, group cooperation, and community commitment. We fulfill this mission by offering affordable weekly classes in gymnastics, fitness, yoga, acrobatic dance, parkour, and rhythmic gymnastics. Our credo is: A Sound Mind in a Sound Body.

Founded by members of the Czech and Slovak communities, Sokol Baltimore continues to preserve and share the heritage that inspired its creation. Our goal is to cultivate a passion for health and fitness within our local community and bring together a diverse population united by the goal of developing a sound mind and body in a strong, inclusive environment.

Sokol Baltimore offers affordable weekly classes tailored to a broad range of ages and interests. The programs are structured around three major groups—preschool, youth, and adults - ensuring that individuals can engage in active

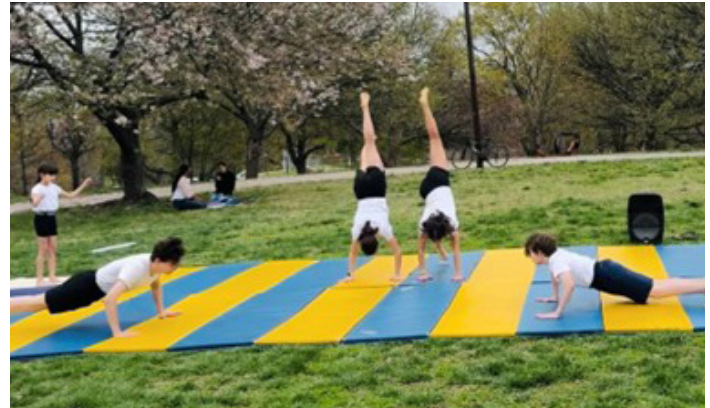
learning throughout their lives. Beyond traditional gymnastics, the organization has embraced modern disciplines such as parkour, rhythmic gymnastics, and acrobatic dance, reflecting its commitment to evolving with community needs and contemporary movement arts. Recent expansions, including a teen gymnastics class and a series of adult fitness offerings, demonstrate Sokol's ongoing effort to support lifelong fitness and personal growth.

The organization's programming extends beyond weekly classes. Each month, Sokol Baltimore hosts workshops and clinics designed to improve skills or to introduce new forms of movement. Youth participants can explore skill-specific gymnastics workshops (bars, beam, vault, floor) or seasonal clinics like Youth Partner Acrobatics, Acro for Dancers, and Rhythmic Gymnastics. Adult workshops include topics such as self-defense, handstand training, backbend flexibility, partner acrobatics, parkour, Capoeira, and Rhythmic Gymnastics. These sessions not only enhance physical ability but also promote perseverance, self-confidence, and collaborative learning.

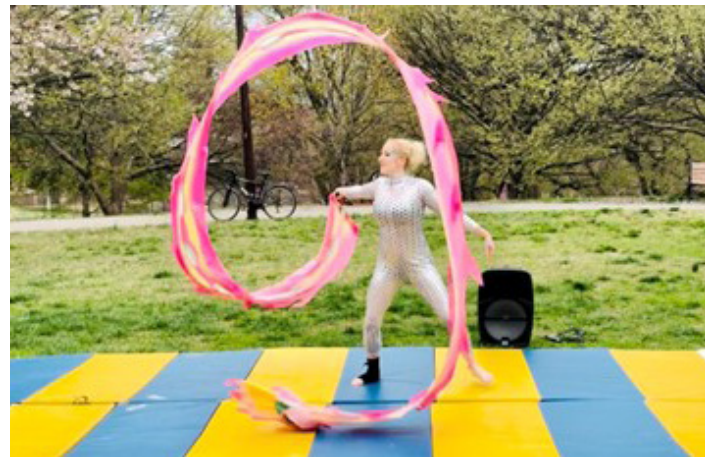
Over the past years, Sokol Baltimore has expanded its presence at local festivals and cultural events across Maryland, such as



Baltimore Sokol performing at the 2025 Lantern Festival in Patterson Park



Sokol performing at the 2025 Kite Festival in Patterson Park



Baltimore Sokol at the 2025 Kite Festival in Patterson Park

the Baltimore County African American Festival, Port Discovery's celebrations and Lantern Festival & Parade in Baltimore, and the Czech and Slovak Festival in Sykesville. This year, Sokol is excited to perform at the Patterson Park Kite Festival on April 11 and the Cartwheel-A-Thon, a fun and energetic fundraiser supporting gym improvements and new equipment. These performances often blend elements of contemporary dance, acrobatics, parkour, and visual spectacle, highlighting both the artistry and athleticism at the heart of the organization.

Ultimately, Sokol Baltimore represents more than a gymnastics or fitness center. It is a living expression of a philosophy that values the development of the whole person—physically, morally, and culturally. Its mission remains as relevant today as ever: to empower individuals and enrich the community through movement, cooperation, heritage, and cultural pride.



Sokol at the 2025 Lantern Festival in Patterson Park, Baltimore

Czech and Slovak Recipe Corner:

by Dana Petran

Yolk Eclairs with Custard (Žloutkové věnečky)

INGREDIENTS (serves 8-10):

Dough:

8.5 oz of water
3.5oz of butter
a pinch of salt
7 oz of flour
5 eggs

Filling:

17oz of Half and Half
3.5oz of sugar with vanilla
1.5 oz of starch
4 yolks

Glaze:

about 3 tbs of confetti sugar
and rum or lemon juice

DIRECTIONS:

Grease a baking sheet, dust it lightly with flour, and set it aside. Preheat the oven to 400°F.

In a medium pot, bring the water, butter, and salt to a boil. Add the flour all at once, remove from the heat, and stir vigorously with a wooden spatula until the mixture is smooth.

Return the pot to low heat and continue mixing until the dough no longer sticks to the spoon or the pot. The dough should cool to about 165°F before you begin adding the eggs. Add the eggs one at a time, mixing each in thoroughly before adding the next. Transfer the finished dough into a piping bag fitted with a wide tip, and pipe rings onto the prepared baking sheet.

Bake at 400°F for 10 minutes without opening the oven, then lower the temperature to 350°F and continue baking until the pastries are golden. They should be fully baked—light but not dried out. Remove them from the sheet and let them



cool completely. Once cooled, slice each pastry horizontally with a thin, sharp knife. Lift off the tops and set them aside for filling.

Combine all filling ingredients in a heatproof bowl or pot. Heat gently over steam, stirring continuously with a whisk or spatula. When the mixture thickens, remove it from the heat and stir as it cools slightly. Transfer to a piping bag with a wide tip and pipe the custard onto the bottom halves of the pastries. Replace the tops.

Mix powdered sugar with rum or lemon juice until smooth and spreadable. Generously glaze the tops of the pastries. Allow them to dry for about an hour before serving.

The eclairs can also be filled with whipped cream and dipped in chocolate. The dough may also be fried instead of baked.

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Sokol Baltimore