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On the Cover...
Christmas Cookies to celebrate the holiday season.
Brothers and Sisters,

I hope the month of December finds all of you well. Happy holidays to all! The holiday season is always a busy time in our schedules. Sure enough, with Thanksgiving just wrapping up and Christmas and New Year’s just around the corner, this year isn’t any different.

For me personally, it’s been even a little more busy than normal, as I’ve had the opportunity to travel to a handful of our lodges throughout the country these last few weeks. Being able to visit our membership in different parts of the land is one of the best parts of my role at CSA Fraternal Life. In attending different lodge meetings, it’s hard not to notice the unique combination of the same traditions and values that we all have as members of CSA, blended with each local area’s own regional twist. It’s a very special thing.

I do want to give a few “shout outs” to the local lodges that were kind enough to host me and our local CSA Board Representative over the last few weeks. Thanks to the Lodge Empire State crew, where Board Representative Paul Vavrasek hosted me at his local lodge. At the meeting, we were able to create pumpkin keepsakes for their local nursing home residents. Thanks to Lodge Laurel, where former CSA Board Representative Marian Varga hosted Board Representative Vavrasek and me at their Halloween inspired lodge meeting.

Thanks to John Kustka, Nadia Slama, and the rest of Lodge Queensdale, where they also hosted Paul and me at a Halloween event.

Last but not least, thanks to the Lodge Virginia crew, where Mary Zahradka still runs a tight ship, as they hosted Board Representative Carol Tranter and me at their November lodge election meeting.

We always appreciate the hospitality. Everyone is always appreciative of the visits, but truly, it really is our honor to be there. In the weeks ahead, a few more visits are scheduled, including Colorado, Ohio, and Missouri. I’ll be sure to pass along highlights of those visits in future articles!

On a more somber note, Joe Arnold, one of our longtime Convention delegates and committee members passed away in November. In my time at CSA, Joe and I crossed paths a number of times. As a matter of fact, he was one of the first people I met at my very first CSA Get-Together held in St. Louis in 2012. I still vividly remember that day. Our thoughts are with Joe’s wife, Mary, and the rest of his family. He was a true gentleman, and will be missed.

Be safe and stay warm as we hunker down for the winter.

Fraternally,

John J. Kielczewski, CLU, FLMI
President
CSA Fraternal Life
Calendar of Events

Sunday, December 2, 2018
D.C. No. 12 Cultural Division Christmas Party
Crystal Sky Banquets
7941 47th St., McCook, Illinois 60525
$25 to attend. Doors at noon, dinner at 1 p.m.
Honoring Veterans in attendance.
Raffle to be held and Cultural Division cookbooks for sale.
RSVP with your Lodge Secretary or call Caroline Johnston at 708-387-9423 for more information.

Saturday, December 8, 2018
Great St. Louis Czech Beer Festival 2018
American Czech Educational Center
4690 Lansdowne Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63116
21+. Check-in at noon; tastings from 1-5 p.m.

Saturday, February 23, 2019
Beerfest 2019
Chicago Czech American Community Center
Sokol Tabor Hall, 1602 Clarence Ave.
Berwyn, Illinois 60402
More details to come.

Sunday, April 1–30, 2019
Junior Bowl-o-Rama Month
Various locations.

Saturday, May 4, 2019
Join Hands Day
Various locations.
More details to come.

Friday – Sunday, August 2–4, 2019
CSA 83rd Annual Get-Together
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Watch for details!
Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

Let’s think back to 2010. That year, I attended my first CSA Convention as a Delegate, actively participating with other members of various committees. At 19 years old, I was inexperienced regarding corporate endeavors and wasn’t entirely informed on all of the business decisions being made, but I did know I was having a lot of fun, all while learning a great deal.

During that Convention weekend, we were able to visit various museums and monuments throughout downtown Chicago. There, I met so many CSA members from various parts of the country. I specifically remember one couple in particular, a friendly man and woman who came to the Convention with two service dogs in tow. As an animal lover, I made a beeline to the two pups and their owners, and I introduced myself. They told me that they were volunteers for a canine companion organization and that these two young dogs were in training. In time, these dogs would eventually graduate and would be given to prospective owners who are in need.

Throughout the week, the couple let me take the dogs for walks and playtime. After time passed, I forgot their names, faces, and where they were from, though from time to time, for several years to follow, I’d remember them and their generosity.

Flash-forward to October of this year... Director Carol Tranter, Miss CSA Cassandra Stone, and I traveled to the Virginia Czech and Slovak Folklife Festival. There, I came across a group of volunteers with their service dogs in training. This brought me flashbacks to the 2010 CSA Convention. I was introduced to Bruce and Christine “Chris” Alt and their dogs. After speaking to them for a while, I put two and two together and realized that this was the same couple I met years ago. If that wasn’t interesting enough, one of the dogs they had with them, named Whitney, was the same dog I met that Convention weekend, too. Only, she was a puppy then. The Alts and I had a brief nostalgic moment, sharing stories and memories about CSA. Isn’t that what being a member of a fraternal society is all about?

Stories like this one remind me just how important fraternalism is. My memories of the Get-Togethers and Conventions that I attended years ago are near and dear to my heart, because in these moments, I remember my family members who are no longer with us. In this article you will see a photo of my grandmother, Sis. Georgianna Kurtz. Taken in 2010, this was the last Convention she was able to attend before she passed. I’m sure that my story is not unfamiliar; many of you have stories like this, too! This holiday season, as you spend time with those closest to you, cherish the times you share together. Reflect fondly on memories with loved ones from years ago. Though remember, although they may be gone, they will never be forgotten.

In 2019, consider attending a local CSA lodge meeting. Join a fundraising event or social gathering. “Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.” — Oprah Winfrey

See you “next year”!

Fraternally,
Amanda S. Lovell
Fraternal Director
alovell@csalife.com

Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com
Brothers and Sisters,

Heather and I were shopping for Christmas lights the other day, when she happened upon a stack of advent calendars filled with chocolate. Even though our boys are 16 and 15, they have come to expect that advent calendar each year. I suspect they do not discuss their new Elf on the Shelf advent calendar with their friends.

Most families have traditions, such as the calendars, that they observe each holiday. Czechs seem to have many, as Lodge Sionilli member, John Pritasil, has done his best to educate me on over several years. This includes keeping a carp in the bathtub and feeding it oatmeal, or young women throwing a shoe over their shoulder to predict where they will reside twelve months henceforth. We hope that our boys continue the calendar tradition and will perhaps pass it on to their families when they are older.

CSA has built its history on tradition. We try to maintain the society’s Czech and Slovak feel and heritage. In addition to this, many other traditions have developed over our century and a half of American experience. We have the annual Get-Together and Miss CSA Contest. We award our Fraternalist of the Year and recognize active Lodges for their efforts each year. Each Lodge celebrates the holiday season with its own traditions. It is always a pleasure to visit with different Lodges to view and participate in their different traditions. My own Lodge, DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409, has a dinner at a nice restaurant and a Christmas card exchange.

I encourage all of you to meet with your Lodge this holiday season and throughout the coming year to observe and participate in all the traditions of the Czech culture that both the Society and your own Lodge might devise. Inviting other family members and friends can continue to grow and expand CSA. New members might even introduce new traditions to the Lodge that no one may have thought of.

Take a few minutes as you read this issue of the Journal to reflect on your own good fortune, be it your good health, your family relationships, or your future prospects for continued material wealth. Recognize that others may not share your favorable circumstances. Consider the plight of those less fortunate or those whom have lost a loved one in recent months. Can you think of someone that, for whatever reason, you’ve lost contact with over the years? Drop them a note just to say hello. You may be surprised at the result.

The Koski family wishes everyone that is part of CSA a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Matthew A. Koski
Executive Secretary/COO/CRO

Message from the Secretary
Try Something New

Like us. Follow us. Reach out.
Leave a review! ★★★★★

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Greetings fellow brothers and sisters,

At the time of writing this article, I have just finished celebrating Thanksgiving with my family. I was able to tell them about my trip to Virginia for the Czech and Slovak Folklife Festival. There I met fellow Czechoslovak-Americans, enjoyed ethnic food, listened to polkas and waltzes, and walked through a quaint museum. I was even featured on the local news! I am very grateful that I could attend. Also, a big thank-you goes to Director Carol Tranter for being mine and Fraternal Director Amanda Lovell’s impromptu tour guide through Colonial Williamsburg during our free time.

In the days ahead, I’ll be spending time with the CSA members of Chicagoland during the holiday party with the Cultural Division of D.C. No. 12 on December 2. I’ll have a lot to talk about in January’s Journal!

I look forward to more family time at Christmas and New Year’s. Will you be getting presents or coal this year?

Best,

Sister Cassandra Stone
Miss National CSA 2018-2019
# 2019 CSA Fraternal Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Home Office closed for New Year’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>CSA Scholarship Application Available (website)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>31</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - 2018 Lodge Recognition Program submissions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - 2018 President Report forms due in Home Office</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Home Office closed for President’s Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Bowl-o-Rama Entries</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Photo Contest Entries</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>22</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - CSA Scholarship Applications and Transcripts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>31</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Lodge Financial &amp; Election forms due in Home Office</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>1-30</td>
<td>Jr. Bowl-o-Rama Month</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Miss CSA Application available (website)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Home Office closed for Good Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Join Hands Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Home Office closed for Memorial Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Bowl-o-Rama Scores</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Miss CSA Application</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>14</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Application</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>21</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Miss CSA Photos</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>4, 5</td>
<td>Home Office closed for July 4th Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Kropik Scholarship Application</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Recipient Information Form for CSA Scholarship</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>2-4</td>
<td>83rd Annual Get-Together, Cedar Rapids, IA</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Home Office closed for Labor Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - Veterans Names/Articles for November Journal</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Home Office closed for Columbus Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>28, 29</td>
<td>Home Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - CSA SERVES Matching Funds Requests</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>24, 25</td>
<td>Home Office closed for Christmas Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
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<td>Home Office closed for New Year’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>31</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - 2019 Lodge Recognition Program submissions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Deadline - 2019 President Report forms due in Home Office</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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***Deadline for Journal articles – 12th of every PRIOR month***
(for example: your article for January should be submitted by December 12, etc.)
Eight Legendary Monsters of Christmas

As the song “I Miss You” from the band Blink-182 goes, “We’ll have Halloween on Christmas,” here are eight noteworthy monsters to look out for this holiday season.

1. Krampus (below)
As a tool to encourage good behavior in children, we of course have Santa Claus. But have you ever considered if there was an anti-Santa, or perhaps, if he has an evil twin? That’s where Krampus comes in.

Krampus historically comes around the night of December 5, the eve of St. Nicholas Day in Austria and other parts of Europe. He visits houses all night with his saintly pal. While St. Nick is on hand to put candy in the shoes of good kids and birch twigs in the shoes of the bad, Krampus’ particular specialty is punishing naughty children. Legend has it that throughout the Christmas season, misbehaved kids are beaten with birch branches or they just simply disappear, stuffed into Krampus’ sack and hauled off to Hell to be tortured or eaten.

There even are parades held in various cities where many (often creative) versions of Krampus walk the streets as a way to celebrate and pay homage to the folk creature. Krampus may look like a devil or a wild Alpine beast, depending on what materials are available to make a Krampus costume. In modern times, people work hard to have the best Krampus costume around. The tradition is spreading beyond Europe, with many American cities hosting their own Krampus Nights, too.

2. Jólakötturinn (below)
Jólakötturinn is the Icelandic Yule Cat (or Christmas Cat). He is not a friendly fellow. In fact, he might eat you. This character is tied to an Icelandic tradition in which those who finished all their work on time received new clothes for Christmas, while those who were lazy did not (although this is mainly a threat). To encourage children to work hard, parents told the tale of the Yule Cat, Jólakötturinn, saying that he could tell who the lazy children were because they did not have new items of clothing for Christmas. These children would be sacrificed to the Yule Cat. This reminder tends to spur children into doing their chores! A poem written about the cat ends with a suggestion that children help out the needy, so that they, too, can have the protection of new clothing. Maybe that’s why Icelanders are known to work so hard.
Eight Legendary Monsters of Christmas

3. Frau Perchta (right)
Tales told in Germany and Austria sometime feature a witch named Frau Perchta, who hands out both rewards and punishments during the 12 days of Christmas (December 25 through January 6). She is best known for her gruesome punishment of the sinful – legend says she will replace your internal organs with garbage. The ugly image of Perchta may show up in Christmas processions in Austria, somewhat like Krampus.

Perchta’s story is thought to have descended from a legendary Alpine goddess of nature, who tends the forest most of the year and deals with humans only during Christmas. In modern celebrations, Perchta, or a close relative, may show up in processions during Fastnacht, the Alpine festival just before Lent. There may be some connection between Frau Perchta and the Italian witch La Befana, but La Befana isn’t really a monster – she’s an ugly, but good, witch who leaves presents.

4. Belsnickel (left)
Belsnickel is a male character from southwestern Germany who traveled to the United States and still survives in Pennsylvanian Dutch customs. He comes to children sometime before Christmas, wearing tattered old clothing and raggedy fur. Belsnickel carries a switch to frighten naughty children and candy to reward good children. In modern visits, the switch is only used for noise, and to warn children they still have time to be good before Christmas. Then all the children get candy, if they are polite about it. Belsnickel’s name comes from the combination of “Nicholas” and the German word for “to strike somebody”.

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Eight Legendary Monsters of Christmas

5. Hans Trapp (right)
Hans Trapp is another “anti-Santa” who hands out punishments to bad children in the Alsace and Lorraine regions of France. The legend says that Trapp was a real man, a rich, greedy, and evil man, who worshiped Satan and was excommunicated from the Catholic Church. He was exiled into the forest and disguised himself as a scarecrow with straw jutting from his clothing. There, he preyed upon children. He was about to eat one boy he captured when he was struck by lightning and killed – a punishment of his own from God. Still, he visits young children before Christmas, dressed as a scarecrow, to scare them into good behavior.

6. Père Fouettard (left)
The French legend of Père Fouettard, whose name translates to “Father Whipper,” begins with an evil butcher who craved children to eat. He (or his wife) lured three boys into his butcher shop, where he killed, chopped, and salted them. However, St. Nicholas came to the rescue, resurrected the boys, and took custody of the butcher. The captive butcher became Père Fouettard, St. Nicholas’ servant whose job it is to dispense punishment to bad children on St. Nicholas Day.
Eight Legendary Monsters of Christmas

7. The Yule Lads (left)
The Jólasveinar, or Yule Lads, are 13 Icelandic trolls, who each have a name and distinct personality. In ancient times, they stole things and caused trouble around Christmastime, so they were used to scare children into behaving, just like the Yule Cat. However, the 20th century brought tales of the benevolent Norwegian figure, Julenisse (Santa Claus), who brought gifts to good children. The traditions became mingled, until the formerly devilish Jólasveinar became kind enough to leave gifts in shoes that children leave out… only if they are good boys and girls, of course.

8. Grýla (below)
All the Yule Lads answer to Grýla, their mother. She predates the Yule Lads in Icelandic legend as the ogress who kidnaps, cooks, and eats children who don’t obey their parents. She only became associated with Christmas in the 17th century, when she was assigned to be the mother of the Yule Lads. According to legend, Grýla had three different husbands and 72 children, all who caused trouble, ranging from harmless mischief to murder. As if the household wasn’t crowded enough, the Yule Cat also lives with Grýla.
Greetings! Our last meeting was held on Veteran’s Day, November 11, 2018. Lodge No. 121 members hosted the meeting in which a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings was provided for all of those in attendance. Special guests were Region C Director, Terry Placek, his wife, Kathy, and mother, Jean “Toots” Placek. As always, it was so nice visiting with all of you! (A special thank you to Sis. Jeanie for bringing the delicious knedliky a zelí – the best addition to any turkey dinner!)

The annual election of officers took place with all previous officers remaining the same: President Peggy Heavener, Vice-President Wendy Lovell, Secretary Mariann Ebright, Treasurer Jim Belanus, and Guide/Sentry Chuck Ebright (see photo). As we move into the New Year, our officers and members promise to uphold our commitment (závazek) to equality, harmony, and fraternity within our organization and beyond.

Our group will be celebrating the holiday season with an ethnic dinner at our local Undo’s Italian Restaurant. We will share some pictures from our gathering in the next issue. Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 10, 2019 at the Pizza Hut Social Room in St. Clairsville, Ohio with members of Lodge Belmont hosting. We hope to see you there!

Happy holidays and stay warm!

Fraternally,
Sis. Wendy Kurtz Lovell
This Year Has Gone By So Quickly

District Council No. 12 of Northern Illinois, Wisconsin, & Indiana – Now we are moving along into the final month of 2018. Our whole year has gone by so quickly. We hardly had time to think about the good things that happened this year. All Americans should be thankful that we live in a country that is prosperous and offers us the freedom to do things for our family and others.

There are many interesting days in December that are worthy of consideration. Pearl Harbor Day was on December 7, 1941 (this is the 77th anniversary); U.S. National Guard Day, established on December 13, 1636; Bill of Rights adopted on December 15, 1791; Wright Brothers Day on December 17; the Winter Solstice enters on December 21; Christmas on December 25; Boxing Day on December 26 (celebrated by Canadians and many Americans to provide items for people in need); First Day of Kwanza on December 26; and finally, New Year’s Eve on December 31.

At District Council, we celebrated the Family Holiday Party on November 25. Our Home Office hosted the festivities at the Safari Land Amusement Park in Villa Park. The children had their pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Pizza, pop, and game tickets were presented to the children.

On December 2, our adults enjoyed the Cultural Division Christmas extravaganza at Crystal Sky Banquets in Lyons, Illinois. For the $25 admission fee, each person had a complete dinner, bingo games, a Christmas sing-along, and lots of sociable fun. A raffle was held for over fifty different prizes. It was a fun day for all who attended. The honored guests were the servicemen and women who attended.

The Bohemian National Cemetery is continually working to restore the Columbarium (a projected $750,000 will be needed for repairs). Chuck Michalek addressed the District Delegates at the Bohemian Crystal Restaurant on October 25. He had a nice presentation that included pictures, brochures, etc. regarding the proposed renovations. Donations can be made to Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery at 5255 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60630.

Until next year, here’s wishing you and your loved ones a blessed, joyous Christmas and New Year.

Fraternally,
Edward Slavik

Do You Work In - Or Are You Studying - A Skilled Trade?

Construction
Automotive
Electrical
Landscaping
Welding
Etc...

We want to hear from you!
Send us your story and experience.
Email Amanda at alovell@csalife.com.
Scholarship Fund Donation Form

With the price of higher education rapidly increasing, scholarships continue to be an important fraternal benefit. The CSA Scholarship Fund assists young adults, not only with their education, but with their professional goals. We appreciate your generous donations and your continued support!

Fill and send this form with donation. Please make checks payable to CSA Fraternal Life Scholarship Fund.

Enclosed is my donation of $ __________

☐ For the general Scholarship Fund or ☐ In Memory of _________________________

Send acknowledgement of contribution to ________________________________

Address _____________________________________________________________

City ____________________________ State ____________ Zip ________________

Donor’s Name ________________________________

Address _____________________________________________________________

City ____________________________ State ____________ Zip ________________

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. —Nelson Mandela

CSA Fraternal Life
In New York Czechoslovak Society of America

www.csalife.com

2050 Finley Rd. Ste. 70, P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148 · Phone: 630-472-0500 · Fax: 630-472-1100
Lodge Happenings

Busy Fraternal Elves

Lodge Kruh Osvojencych Zen A Panu No. 121, Dillonvale, Ohio – The busy “little” elves of Lodge No. 121 have participated in several activities recently. We would like to thank our “queen” elf, Sis. Delores Shinkarow, and her very spoiled kitty cats, Zane and Baby, for hosting our October meeting. Members enjoyed a hearty lunch in Delores’s welcoming kitchen. After the business meeting, holiday cards were signed for local veterans and nursing home patients.

Our November meeting took place after the D.C. No. 9 meeting, in which our members hosted a Thanksgiving turkey dinner with all of the trimmings for our fellow Brothers and Sisters. Our annual election of officers took place, with all officers returning to their positions for the 2019 fraternal year: President Wendy Lovell, Vice-President Delores Shinkarow, Secretary Mariann Ebright, Treasurer Gary Lovell, Guide/Sentry Chuck Ebright, and Youth Director Elijah Lovell. Thank you to all officers for your willingness to serve our organization in these leadership roles.

The Memorial Service for our deceased members was also held at our November meeting. The service included readings and poems, along with memories shared of those loved ones who are no longer with us. Remembering can be emotional, but we found ourselves laughing over some of the stories that were shared. Members made donations to our local food pantry. Non-perishable food items were collected at our local Thanksgiving Community Worship Service. Members also donated refreshments, which were enjoyed after the church service. Donations of clothing and household items were also made to our local mission and thrift shops in November.

We would like to recognize our deceased member and veteran, Zane Tittle, for his service to our country. Zane was a very kind man who livened up many of our lodge meetings with his polka dancing. We’ve submitted his name to the honor roll of CSA veterans for the 2019 November Journal issue. (We encourage other lodges to add the names of their veterans, too.) We truly miss him and think of him often.

In keeping with tradition, we will be celebrating the holidays in the New Year. Our January post-holiday celebration dinner will take place at the Golden Chopsticks restaurant in Wheeling, West Virginia. For more information, please contact lodge secretary, Mariann Ebright, at (740) 733-8158.

In closing, our “little” elves in Ohio would like to wish all of our Brothers and Sisters nationwide a very Merry Christmas! Take lots of “elfies” – I mean “selfies” – to mark the occasion! Veselé Vánoce a šťastný nový rok!

Blessings,

Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell
Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs No. 432, Lakewood, Colorado – It was a Merry Early Christmas at our lodge’s November meeting. Mary Campe, our liaison with our local charity, the Action Center, emailed everyone to remind them to bring new toys for their Santa Shop, and we did! Two long tables were overflowing with colorful, fascinating, brightly colored, cuddly, and plastic toys both big and small! Not an electronic device to be seen! Irma Farrell took a photo of the toys and the dozen of us all smiling, anticipating the joy they would bring the children next month. Mary and her mother, Pat Kenning, took the bags of toys over to the Action Center after the meeting, where they were gratefully received with many thanks.

Oh, yes, we held the business meeting and election of officers! Much to my amazement and delight, we now have a new Vice President, Mary Campe, instead of Anne Farrar who retired after many years of devoted service. Irma Farrell is once again our capable President; Mary Campe, Vice President; Pat Kenning, Secretary; and Mary Ellen Vialpando, Treasurer. We voted them in unanimously and are very thankful for their willingness to serve. The national election letter was also read.

Two birthdays were celebrated: our Polka Queen Adeline Stafford (yes, she still dances at 92!) and Jack Griffin, 86, who now volunteers at the Barr Lake State Park picnic grounds. Congratulations and many more!

Irma conducted a touching ceremony, remembering those who have passed, with a heartfelt poem and a white rose for each of us to take home. She reminded us that our January meeting will be held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 21. Refreshments were served by Irma and we all settled down to hear Pat, a professional storyteller and dramatist, give a spirited reading of “The Mysterious Life of Agatha Miller Christie Mallowan,” including a story board of photos of her life.

Our December meeting, held on the second Saturday of the month, includes a potluck at the home of Mary Ellen. This is an event we all look forward to.

Pat Kenning
Scribe
Lodge Happenings

Sixth Annual Virginia Czech and Slovak Folklife Festival

Lodge Virginia No. 230, Colonial Heights, Virginia – On Saturday, October 20, the 6th Annual Virginia Czech and Slovak Folklife Festival was held at the Prince George County Regional Heritage Center. It was a day of fellowship with family and friends, some of whom were descendants of the Czechs and Slovaks who settled in this area around the 1900s. There were ongoing activities all day including family history displays, farm exhibits, traditional music, dancing, and lots of food – including koláčky and Czech pivo!

Lodge Virginia No. 230 was represented with a special booth, where members and friends gathered. We were honored to have in attendance Cassandra Stone, our Miss National CSA, along with Amanda Lovell, CSA Fraternal Director, and Carol Tranter, our District’s Director. Also joining us were Whitney and Adeline, our two sponsored Canine Companions for Independence (CCI). It’s always a good thing to come together to celebrate our heritage. We hope to see you next year!

Fraternally,
Janet Zahradka Reiner
Lodge Independence
Liberty Bell No. 408, St. Louis, Michigan – We’ve been really busy these past few months, but we’ve had a lot of fun, too! On November 4, five CSA members traveled to New Orleans to watch the L.A. Rams play the New Orleans Saints. The members were Ron Steward, Greg Adams, Robin Adams, Craig Anderson, and Mary Anderson. Ron’s wife, Debbie, also attended. Although the Rams didn’t win, a very good time was had.

On November 5, Ed Weber’s very special birthday was celebrated with his friends and family. Congratulations, Ed, 77 years strong!

On November 17, we held our chili cook-off, and it was a big success. CSA Fraternal Director Amanda Lovell and Sales Manager Julie Souza made the trip from Chicagoland to attend. We had 10 pots of chili entered into the cook-off and 21 people signed up to be chili tasters. In the photo (top right), Matt Clark took 3rd place, Crickett Hamilton took 1st place, and Bob Larue took 2nd place. Thank you to everyone who contributed a pot of chili or other good food items. The money collected for the chili cook-off was donated to Meals on Wheels. They will be receiving a check in the amount of $300.00. Our bartenders worked hard on coming up with specialty drinks to celebrate our chili cook-off. The drinks were a hit and they plan on coming up with new drink recipes to kick off the holiday season.

We served homemade pizza on November 23. This date is considered the biggest bar day of the year. Our bartenders came up with drink specials for us. We are planning on kicking off the holiday season with lots of cheer!

We have a very special birthday to celebrate on December 21. This celebration is being planned for Jill Anderson. Jill will be turning 50 and a DJ will be playing music to help with the celebration. Come on out and wish Jill a happy birthday!

We also have a Swiss Steak Dinner in the works for January 12, 2019. Please contact our CSA Hall & Club at (989) 681-3339 for details.

Enjoy the holiday season!

Fraternally yours,
Mary Anderson
Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, Lombard, Illinois – Can’t believe that we already are nearing the end of 2018 – but what a year it has been! Our members have outdone themselves with volunteerism, donations, social events, and lots of fun. Most recently, our November meeting was jam-packed with all of these!

Business first: we held our annual lodge elections, and are fortunate to have a dedicated group who committed to return for 2019 duty. Thank you to everyone for your year(s) of service to our lodge – and thank you to our regular attendees, even if you don’t hold an office. We couldn’t do this without you!

Beyond business, we held a unique competition among the members present: everyone brought some goodies to share, and then we all tasted everything and voted for our two favorites. It was close; the competition was pretty fierce for some really yummy treats! In the end, Missy Dropka won as the creator of a jambalaya dip that had “just the right amount” of heat. Her prize was a fun set of holiday napkins.

Our craft night project was to make snowmen ornaments, which will be donated to Tabor Hills Retirement Community. They turned out so cute! Everyone present contributed to drawing adorable faces, assembling them as ornaments, and finishing them off with cozy “stocking caps” made from inexpensive gloves.

The third and final order of the night was our annual toy drive. We needed to collect earlier than usual this year because of the timing of our December meeting and the scheduled collection date at PRC, the community organization. Our tally of donations is not yet finalized, so I will report next month on what appears to have been another very successful and generous drive by our members this year!

We are looking forward to another successful and fun year ahead; we hope very much that you might join us for our meetings, events, and projects. If you need a ride, just let me know – we would love to see you here!

Fraternally,
Jean Hennáček Laukant
hemzacek.j@gmail.com / 630-279-7894
**Lodge Happenings**

**Groveton Reflects on 2018**

**Lodge Groveton No. 4, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania** – As CSA prepares for the upcoming new year, CSA Lodge Groveton No. 4 reflects on a memorable 2018 that included personal milestones, Lodge achievements and the sad passing of a longtime member. (See article on page 33.)

The year 2018 was special for CSA member Vince Schulin. This year, Vince celebrated 70 years of membership for an organization that he holds near and dear to his heart. Vince became a member in 1948 and since that time he has been an active participant in many aspects from monthly meetings, to attending numerous Get-Togethers and participating in bowling tournaments just to name a few. Congratulations to Vince on this milestone and we look forward to having Vince as part of Lodge Groveton for many years to come.

The past year was an exciting time to be a member of the Groveton family. Lodge Groveton was awarded the distinguished Platinum Award for its volunteer work, charitable contributions and tireless dedication to improving and advancing CSA. Sister Hunter Yurkovich was presented with the Kropik Scholarship Award at the Get-Together for her arduous work as a CSA member and student. Lodge Groveton welcomed a new member into the world with the birth of Jourdyn Forrester in March. The 2018 year culminated with the Installation of Officers, all of which stayed the same as last year, to guide Groveton into 2019.

Lodge Groveton No. 4 would like to wish all fellow CSA Sisters and Brothers a very safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to 2019 and making more unforgettable memories. Follow Lodge Groveton No. 4 on our Facebook page for upcoming events, as well as fun holiday pictures and stories.

*Fraternally,*

*Gary Forrester*
Lodge Happenings

Busy, Fun, Exhausting Summer!

Lodge Rovnost No. 53, Cicero, Illinois – It was a busy summer for Chris and Marv Lanzel. From May to June, we spent four weeks in Germany visiting Sis. Alex Schulz and adorable baby Gus (husband Johannes is adorable, too!). It was fun to be there when Gus went from just learning, to sitting by himself, all the way to standing and crawling.

We took a side trip to Copenhagen for five days. It included super friendly people, gorgeous weather, miles of walking, a Viking Ship Museum, and a workshop to boot. Marv was in heaven! It was a wonderful, relaxing vacation, followed seven weeks later by the Schulz invasion of our house. Again, plenty of baby time, several trips to several beaches, the zoo, and two weddings. Alex and Johannes were able to get together with college buddies and other friends, too. Our Rovnost annual picnic was held on August 12, the day after they arrived. Lots of food, games, and passing around the baby. He was exhausted by the time everyone left.

All in all it was a busy, fun, exhausting summer. Are we getting too old for this? Heck no!

Fraternally yours,
Chris Lanzel

Joyce Nemec and I, as representatives from Lodge Rovnost, attended a Lodge R.T. Crane meeting and were welcomed by all. They served us a delicious meal before the meeting. Then after the meeting, we joined all the members by helping them work on the afghan blankets that they will be donating. As you can see, Joyce is enjoying herself working on them. This is the second year we have done this with the lodge, and we will probably do it again next year.

Fraternally,
Caroline Johnston

Do you know a CSA member who deserves recognition? Are they active in the community; do they volunteer often or donate money to charitable organizations?

Send us their photo, a brief description of who they are and what they do, and we will publish them in the Journal.
Costume Contest

Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77, North Riverside, Illinois – Members had a great time at our October meeting. Many came in costume. We held a contest and first place was Cindy Bueneman dressed as a clown. Second place was Ray Riha dressed up as a Sultan. Third place was Eunice Semple as Little Red Riding Hood and fourth place was Margaret Jasinski as a Viking. Kathy Riha brought many decorations for the party. Many members brought all kinds of treats to go with our pizza.

We even played Bingo! Thanks to all of our members who brought prizes for the game. A special thank you goes out to Frank Michalek for all the prizes he gave for Bingo. We raised $75.00 and will donate it to the St. Barbara’s Food Pantry for Thanksgiving.

Several members of our Lodge were honored to be able to attend the Czech Centennial Gala held September 28 at the Union League Club in Chicago: Josephine Budilovsky, Cindy Bueneman, Ken Dvorsky and Chuck Michalek. Celebrating the Centennial of the Founding of Czechoslovakia and the 25th Anniversary of the creation of the Czech Republic, the evening included a Centennial video presentation; thank you speeches honoring Chicago, the Midwest, and America; and an amazing concert of the “Czech Rock Lions” with performances by Jim Peterik and Peter Janda that left the crowd cheering. Presentations of medals to the evening’s honorees were followed by dinner inspired by members of the Czech National Culinary Team. Later in the evening was the opening of the art exhibition “Carving Destiny;” which included works of Alphonse Mucha, Albin Polasek and Vojtech Preezg. It was an amazing evening.

A very Merry Christmas and love to everyone from our Lodge.

Fraternally,

Mary Ellen Janda

Many Celebrations Held

Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora
No. 231, Cicero, Illinois – On November 14, lodge members came together for prayers and remembrances in a service to memorialize our departed members. Our table of candles was truly an inspiration.

Now, the month of December is finally here. This is the time of year when we have many Christmas celebrations. On December 2, several of our members attended the District Council No. 12 Cultural Division Christmas Party, held at Crystal Sky Banquets in McCook, Illinois. At the party, there was accordion music played by Ed Slavic and a Christmas sing-along. We also had a neat raffle and we played Christmas Bingo. The food was very enjoyable.

On December 12, our lodge celebrated our Christmas Party that was held at Bohemian Crystal Restaurant. We had a short lodge meeting and then enjoyed a yummy Bohemian meal.

We wish all members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fraternally,

Elaine Tejcek and Loretta Paulus
Lodge Sokol Plzen No. 434, Oak Brook, Illinois – On October 21, our lodge met at Frank Francis’ home in Chicago, Illinois. We discussed the Czech Centennial Gala which was held at the Union League Club of Chicago on September 28. It was attended by many CSA lodge members and representatives from the Home Office. Miss National CSA Cassandra Stone was also present. The entertainment was provided by the Czech-American rock star, Jim Peterik, and a Czech rock star, Peter Janda. Many speeches by Czech and American dignitaries were given. It was a very enjoyable evening.

We also went over the Houby Day Parade held on October 7 in Cicero and Berwyn. CSA Home Office staff participated in the parade, along with T.G. Masaryk Czech School, Lodge Harrison Hus Garfield, and Lodge Sokol Plzen. Fraternal Director Amanda Lovell drove her Jeep, which was decorated with CSA logos and playing polka music. The Home Office staff handed out candy to those lined up watching the parade. There were many! View the CSA Fraternal Life Facebook page for the event photos.

At our meeting, we proceeded to take care of our lodge business and then moved on to another subject about a lodge member. Sis. Nicole Jaros, who was our representative in the 2016 Miss CSA Contest, is a nursing student at Loyola University Chicago and attended a ceremony at the university. It is called the Dedication to the Profession (aka, The Blessing of the Hands) Nursing Ceremony. It was held on October 13, and Nicole is in the class of 2020. Pictured is Nicole with her mom, Mary Lou Jaros, her sister Jenny, and her grandmother Mary Lou Francis. We’ve also included a copy of the certificate she received. The entire lodge is very proud of Nicole.

Until next month,
Andy Bultas
Lodge Paramount Southgate
No. 372, Maple Heights,
Ohio – Members gathered at
the Maple Heights Senior
Center for our monthly meet-
ing. Everyone who attended
donated bags of candy that
were divided up into
Halloween bags to give away
to the seniors at the center.
We treated them to spiced
doughnuts and ice cream. We
received many thanks and
they enjoyed it all.

We held the Nomination
of Officers: President Mary
Ann Toncar, Vice President
Annette Reichman, Treasurer
Diane DiBianca, Secretary
Janet Dembowski, Guide/
Sentry John Weiss, and
Scribe Annette Reichman.

The Senior Center had a
Clam Bake for lunch; those
who didn’t want clams were
able to have a nice tuna fish
boxed lunch.

In addition to her fantastic
bakery, Mary Ann had a raf-
ffe and everyone won a nice
gift. Thank you, Mary Ann!

We are well on our way to
receiving a Platinum Award
in the Lodge Recognition
Program once again this year.
Last thing we need to do is
attend the Holiday Pin Party.
Letters were sent to our pin
recipients in hopes of them
attending the event on
Sunday, December 9. Our
Lodge will have a lunch cele-
brating Christmas at
Spennatos Restaurant in
Northfield, where reserva-
tions were made for 12:00
p.m.

On the weekend of
October 27-28, several of our
members and our Sales
Representative, Robert Hope,
attended the Centennial
Commemoration of

Czechoslovakia 1918 – 2018
at the Czech Cultural Hall.
Mary Ann Toncar said
Saturday they had a really
good crowd and ran out of
food! There was a lot of
good entertainment and the
Museum was open. It was
very nice. Many informa-
tional displays and tables
were set up. There were
Czech dancers, a Marionette
show, good food, and of
course, Czech beer. On
Sunday, the best part was of
the dinner was the warm
apple dumpling with ice
cream.

Congratulations to the
bowlers who participated in
the 58th Ohio/Penn Bowling
Tournament.

Men’s Singles: 2nd place is
Jeff Bardoun, 3rd place is
David DiBianca, and 5th
place is Bill Miller

Women’s Singles: 4th place
is Heather Layton

Doubles Event: 4th place is
Ron Johnson and Jeff
Bardoun and 6th place is
John Weiss and Bill Miller

Team Event: 2nd place is
Corlett Movers, Ron Johnson,
John Weiss, Bill Miller, and
Jeff Bardoun

Men’s All Events: 1st place
is Jeff Bardoun and 3rd place
is Bill Miller

We wish everyone a
blessed Christmas and a
wonderful holiday season.

Submitted by,
Diane DiBianca and
Annette Reichman
Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio – Our November meeting was met with cold and rainy weather. That was a big change from last month. We had 12 members attend this month. Elections were held and the officers are as follows: President Tony Genco, Vice President Kathy Gawrilow, half year Secretary Jan Russell, other half year Secretary Carole Cirillo, Treasurer June Karecki, Sentry Elmer Soos; and Scribe Judy Genco.

Kathy Gawrilow and Dolores Clark provided us with a wonderful lunch. Thank you, ladies! Rousing games of bingo with lots of winners followed our meeting and lunch.

We had a moment of silence in honor of two deceased members. There were no birthdays or anniversaries to acknowledge this month. Monetary donations were received this month through straight donations and our 50/50 raffle. Carole and Karen won the 50/50 raffle. Donations to two of our charities will be sent out this month.

The Sokol organization will hold its gym exhibition on January 26, 2019. Tickets are $7.00 at the door. March 31 will be the Jr. Bowl-o-Rama and there will be a reverse raffle sponsored by the Sokols sometime in April. Hawaii will be the theme.

Our State bowling tournament was held on October 13 and 14 at the Seven Hills bowling alley. There were 10 teams from Michigan, Pennsylvania and Ohio. A fun time was had by all.

Speaking of bowling, our member, Dusty Clark, bowled his tenth 300 game at Freeway Lanes in Cleveland. He also bowled an 804 series at Brookgate Lanes in Cleveland. Way to go, Dusty! We’re very proud of you! Dusty is the President of our Sports Committee.

A big thank you goes out to Winifred “Freddie” Shima for purchasing the 10 gifts for our Pin Party on December 9 and for giving everyone the cutest tote bag from the zoo (where she volunteers). Thanks again, Freddie!

We are having our December 11 meeting at the Longhorn Restaurant on Rockside Road.

Prayers go out to our neighbors in California who are battling forest fires and to all the people affected by all the senseless tragedies lately.

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas and New Year. We must be thankful for our own blessings.

Fraternally yours,
Judy (Sevcik) Genco
Lodge Happenings

Travelers Among Us

Lodge R. T. Crane, Jr. No. 7, North Riverside, Illinois – Happy holidays! With the weather changing, we are prepared! We spent our October meeting making fleece blankets to donate to a nursing home to get the residents through the cold months. This has become a yearly tradition for us and every year we get better at making the tiny little knots.

We had our second annual soup competition at our November meeting. Stay tuned next month to hear about all the different types of soups and the announcement of the winner!

We look forward to our annual Christmas party to be held at Riverside Restaurant on Wednesday, December 12. Please contact Vera Wilt at: verawilt@aol.com if you would like to join us!

We have some travelers among us. Blanche Hobart has headed back to Arizona before she heads on her next cruise adventure. We will miss her but we can’t wait to hear all about it. We also wish safe travels to Mary Lee as she heads on a trip to Florida.

Lodge Crane wishes all CSA members a delightful holiday season spent with loved ones.

Fraternally,
Alix Wilt
Lodge Laurel No. 452, Storrs-Mansfield, Connecticut – We had a very busy October meeting, held at the Ashford Town Hall. We were honored with the presence of CSA President John Kielczewski and our District Director, Paul Vavrasek. We began with lunch, which was highlighted by the Halloween themed food and the homemade desserts. After lunch, we walked down the road a short distance to St. Michael’s Cemetery, where we conducted our annual Memorial Service led by Deacon Lawrence Goodwin. The service closed with the singing of “Amazing Grace” by all present.

Returning to the meeting room, we donned our Halloween garb, completed the difficult task of voting for our pumpkin competition winners, and then continued with the business part of our meeting. In addition to discussing “Lodge Recognition Program” items and Christmas shopping for the youth, the agenda included hearing from both President Kielczewski and Director Vavrasek, followed by questions and answers. We very much appreciated hearing from them both and having this opportunity for questions.

Now the votes were all tallied (we even had to have a re-vote for “most creative” due to a tie! Pictured are the three category winners with their entries: Jonathan Varga with “The Remains of Peter Pumpkin” for the most creative; Agnes Zabic with “Wily the Werewolf” for the scariest; and Paul Varga with “Elford the Elephant” for the funniest. As you can see, all the entries were terrific!

Have a great holiday season!

Fraternally,
Marion Varga
November Salute to Veterans

Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378, Cicero, Illinois – November was the month that we saluted all of our veterans. At our lodge meeting, three WWII veterans who participated in Honor Flight Chicago were recognized. Thank you, Charlie, Chaz, and Bill. Chef Gladys prepared a delicious smoked pork butt for lunch, which we thoroughly enjoyed. It was so good to have Bill Kostecki back with us from his Northwoods home.

I read two thank-you notes – one from the American Red Cross for our donation to the disaster relief fund and one from the Fraternal Department for our Scholarship Fund donation.

Gladys and Emil talked about their recent trip to the cold and wet Blue Ridge Mountains. Andy Bultas talked to us about the children of T.G. Masaryk Czech School and their participation in the Houby Day Parade and the 100-year Celebration of Czechoslovakia at the University of Chicago.

We had a special guest talk to us about a special bus trip to New York to see the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. Plenty of photos of the trip were shown. What made the trip so special was seeing the plaque with her parents’ name, since this is where they entered from Europe.

We made our donation to the T.G. Masaryk Czech School for our CSA Serves project. We closed the meeting by singing “Happy 97th Birthday” to our WWII veteran, Charlie Valestin. Happy holidays to all.

Please note: We will not hold a meeting in January. See you in February!

Ken Dvorsky

Volunteering for Vets

Lodge Sionilli No. 170, Brookfield, Illinois – Warm winter-time wishes! It’s been nice to see some less familiar faces at our recent meetings. We were lucky to be visited by the daughter of our active members Stan and Pat Smolucha, Dr. Amy Smolucha. It was great to hear about all of her successes.

Joe Topinka, son of the late Judy Baar Topinka, was also at a recent meeting. He spoke to us about a book he wrote about his mom. It was designed to be used for middle school civics courses. We are also looking to volunteer with a veteran-serving organization recommended by Joe. We would be working with Guardian Corp of America to pack homeless person survival kits.

Our members John Pritasil and Rose Pritasil recently decorated the Czech tree at the museum of Science and Industry and, along with Alix and Vera Wilt, performed for the Christmas Around the World spectacle.

We wish you all very happy holidays and valued time with the ones you love.

Fraternally,
Alix Wilt

Scholarship Fund Report

October 10, 2018 - November 10, 2018

IN MEMORY OF DECEASED MEMBERS
Lodge Queensdale No. 422

TO CONTINUE CSA’S TRADITION OF ASSISTING YOUNG MEMBERS IN PURSUING THEIR HIGHER EDUCATION
Margo M. Michalec, Trust

IN MEMORY OF ROSE KOVAC
Dorothy Keslar
Vicki Williams

TOTAL DONATIONS $12,709.60
Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409, Lombard, Illinois – Our November meeting at the CSA Home Office was called to order by President Jerry Gaydusek. After the pledge and roll call, minutes from the last meeting were read and accepted. No bills needed to be paid. Secretary Nekolny read a letter from the Home Office reminding us of annual election of lodge officers.

Jerry Gaydusek reported on the continuing repairs at the Bohemian National Cemetery. The Donor Wall in the Columbarium is in progress and should be completed in the near future.

Treasurer Helenka Gaydusek reminded members of two upcoming holiday gatherings. District Council No. 12’s Holiday Party was held on December 2 and offered members a delicious meal, two U-Pick-Em Bingo games, a Christmas carol sing-along, a raffle table filled with terrific gifts and prizes, and a presentation by Holly Wright of Hines Fisher House, honoring the veterans at the dinner.

Lodge No. 409’s Christmas meeting and dinner is to be held at Sawa’s Old Warsaw on December 18 where a tasty array of ethnic foods and desserts will be enjoyed, along with a raffle table of Christmas goodies, a Christmas card exchange, and an evening of fraternal camaraderie. Look for a recap in the January Journal.

Our meeting was brief in order to include the Lodge’s Annual Memorial Service. Vice President Lyn Burton recited a lovely poem dedicated to those of our members who have passed.

Our final event of the evening was our Movie Night. We enjoyed the documentary, “Happy.” This film depicted people all over the world, most living in deplorable living conditions with little or no money, scant food, and little hope for better conditions in the future. Yet, they continued to be optimistic and confessed they were satisfied with what they had and were in fact, happy. It was a movie that made us question our own ability to be happy with what we’ve been given and to be truly thankful.

Members of Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison wish all CSA members and their families a truly joyous holiday season and a New Year filled with good health, good friends, good times, and prosperity.

Fraternally,
Gerri Romanelli

The Farrell Family is on the Move!

Jennifer (Farrell) Daberkow joined her mother, Irma Farrell, who is a member of the Musicians of St. Clare, for their concert tour of four cities in Italy. After a tour of Venice, they were able to take a gondola ride on the canal and were serenaded by one of the wonderful singers. There was a concert that evening in a church that was built in the 12th century.

The next day, the bus took them to Florence where again they were given a tour of the highlights of Florence, including seeing Michelangelo’s beautiful carving of “David”. That evening there was a performance at Santa Maria del Fiori, a church also built in the 12th century.

Back on the bus the next day, we headed to Assisi where we had three days scheduled. We sang Mass at the Lower Basilica of St. Francis in the morning, and the following evening had a concert at St. Peter’s Church, which was built in the 11th century. In between the singing we were able to tour a winery outside of Assisi that has been in the same family since the 12th century. We also sampled the wonderful wines. Needless to say, we had a couple of cases shipped home.

The highlight of the trip was singing Mass at the high altar at the Vatican in Rome during our final Sunday. It was a very moving experience. It was a good thing we did a lot of walking, because we ate our share of gelato and pasta. The memories of this trip will be treasured for years to come.

Fraternally,
Director Irma Farrell

Ann Farrell
Jennifer Farrell Daberkow
Lodge Happenings

Lodge Pingree No. 366 - Photo Montage

Pictured left...
Left to right: Marie Palmer, Jeff Teichman, John Vimr, Donna Vimr, Jerry Vimr, and Victor Hurych Jr.

Pictured right...
Left to right: Marie Palmer, Jeff Teichman, John Vimr, Donna Vimr, Elizabeth (friend of John Vimr’s), and Jerry Vimr.

Marie Palmer and James Kalivoda.

A picture of my bowling team complete with CSA shirts! Left to right are David Radcliffe, Jeff Teichman, Jerry Vimr, and Mike Smith. Jerry and Jeff are CSA members.

Like us on Facebook
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In Memoriam

Bro. Joseph “Joe” Arnold, 88, of Coraopolis, Pennsylvania was a member of Lodge Groveton No. 4 and passed on Sunday, November 11, 2018. Born April 30, 1930 in Arnold, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Joseph S. and Anna (Yunker) Arnold. He was a beloved husband of 64 years to Mary (Honus) Arnold; father of Joseph A. (Patricia Della Mea) Arnold of Allison Park, Catherine (David) Pleskovich of Moon Township, John (Lisa) Arnold of Brush Prairie, Washington and the late James Arnold. He was the grandfather of Jennifer Della Mea, Sabrina (Bob) Schiela, Jennifer (Scott) Smith, Timothy (Sara) Dominick, Grace Pleskovich, and Kaitlyn Arnold; great-grandfather of Brianna and Julia Smith; brother of Ed (Kitty) Arnold of Moon Township and the late Bill and Tom Arnold.

Joe was a Navy veteran during the Korean War and an engineer. He was a member of St. Joseph’s Church, Moon High School Class of 1948, VFW Post 402, and the Railroad Train Museum. He was an active member of CSA Fraternal Life, serving on various Convention committees over the years, and was very active in his district. Joe will be greatly missed.

From Lodge Groveton No. 4 - Sadly, the end of 2018 brought a sorrowful moment when it saw the passing of long time Lodge Groveton No. 4 member Joe Arnold. Joe was a proud Veteran of the U.S Navy, the long time President of Lodge Groveton, a dedicated member of District Council and a man CSA was fortunate enough to have as a member. Joe and his wife Mary were involved in all facets of the lodge, ranging from volunteer projects, traveling to functions at other lodges and adding valued input at the monthly Groveton meetings, even in failing health. Joe was a pioneer in leading Lodge Groveton for many years and we thank him for the time we were blessed to have him as part of our Lodge family. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Arnold Family.

Miroslav J. Janosik, lifelong member of Lodge Missouri No. 1, was born in St. Louis, Missouri and passed away on October 4, 2018 at the age of 90. He was retired from Ameren (Union Electric).

Brother Miro was an active participant in CSA activities throughout his life, attending events and serving on committees. In his younger years, he was a member of many CSA softball and bowling teams. He would serve as committee chair, worker bee or whatever was needed to get the job done. He attended many Bowling Congresses and attended and served on CSA Get-Together Committees. He was the Vice-President of our Lodge and served as a delegate to the District Council of Missouri and Southern Illinois. Brother Miro was also an active supporter of Gymnastic Association Sokol and a dedicated worker at our Sokol Children's Camp. He was a founding member of the American-Czech Educational Center and was instrumental in the construction and expansion process of our building. He possessed a commanding knowledge of the history of our organizations and the physical attributes of the properties.

He was a cheerful person who found a friend wherever he went. We have lost a treasure to our organizations. We will miss his influence, dedication and friendship.
Send Just Kids your stories, riddles, etc.
Mail: Just Kids, c/o the CSA Journal,
P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148
Email to: CSAJournalEditor@gmail.com

Czech to English

Prosinec............................................December (pro-si-nec)
zvon............................................................bell (zvon)
hračka...............................................................toy (hrač-ka)
dárek..................................................................gift (dá-rek)
stromček..................................................tree (sto-me-ček)
hvězda.............................................................star (hvěz-da)
Štědrý večer.........................Christmas Eve (štěd-rý ve-čer)
kostel...........................................................church (kos-tel)
svíčky.........................................................candles (svíč-ky)
SNIH............................................................snow (snih)
“Volunteering...it’s what we do!”