Horror in Hollywood
On the Cover

In this issue, we will discuss various stories of scary occurrences on Hollywood movie sets.
**Brothers and Sisters,**

Hello to all of our members, and I hope you’re having a nice autumn.

Here in Lombard at the Home Office, we’re keeping busy as always. From a business standpoint, we’re awaiting final approval by different state regulators for our newer suite of products. Our Sales Manager Julie Souza is eager to introduce these products in the 4th Quarter, which are based on newer mortality tables. In addition, as you’ve seen on the back cover of the *Journal*, we’ve also introduced a program in which potential members could receive $165 off of their first-year premium on a new policy. Why $165? Well, it’s in honor of the 165 years of CSA Fraternal Life, of course.

We’re also preparing for the November CSA Board of Directors meeting in which, among other things, we will create the budget for next year, as well as revise and finalize our Strategic Plan for the months and years ahead.

From a travel standpoint, fall is always a busy time of year, with many meetings and events to attend.

Personally, I’ve recently been to Virginia to attend a Presidents and CEOs meeting of the Life Insurers Council (LIC). The LIC is a group of small to medium-sized companies (both Fraternals and non-Fraternals) that gets together periodically to discuss issues that we all have that could possibly improve our societies or companies.

In the days ahead, our Secretary/Treasurer, Matt Koski, and I will attend a similar event in Washington, D.C. for the American Fraternal Alliance (AFA) Executive Summit.

In addition to those events, I’ll be visiting Lodges and District Councils in the months ahead, both here locally in the Chicago area, as well as throughout the country.

Many of our staff members are also out and about this fall. Julie Souza, our Sales Manager, will be traveling to various areas, meeting with agents and looking for additional representatives for CSA. In addition to joining me at the AFA event that I wrote about, our Secretary/Treasurer Matt Koski will also be attending other LIC events, as well as numerous lodge meetings and cultural events. Our Fraternal Director, Amanda Lovell, along with Underwriter Anna Trush will be attending many events as well, some of which will include an accompaniment by our Miss National CSA, Hunter Yurkovich. So be on the lookout for them! Finally, Tom Hummel, our Senior Accountant, also has joined in on attending a few fundraisers as a CSA representative.

So needless to say, we’ve been keeping busy spreading the message of CSA. In the months ahead, I’ll be reporting on how well these events went and what’s next on the agenda. Looking forward to it!

Fraternally,

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

Saturday, October 19, 2019
Czech Fall Festival
American-Czech Educational Center
4690 Lansdowne Ave., St. Louis, Missouri
11 a.m. – 7 p.m.: Czech food, pastries, pivo, and music.
See Facebook page for details.

Saturday, October 19, 2019
Night at the Hospoda
Sokol Spirit, 3909 Prairie Ave., Brookfield, Illinois
4 p.m. – 11 p.m.: Music, Czech dinners, pivo, wine, and spirits available for purchase.
For information: 630-325-3873 (after 6 p.m.) or
moravianculturalsociety@yahoo.com
See Facebook page for details.

Saturday, October 19, 2019
Virginia Czech and Slovak Folklife Festival
Prince George County Regional Heritage Center
6404 Courthouse Rd., Prince George, Virginia
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Free admission, food, dancing, games, exhibits, and music. For information: 804-863-0212
www.petersburgarea.org

Sunday, October 27, 2019
Sokol Sunday Dinners
Bohemian National Hall, 4939 Broadway Ave., Cleveland, Ohio
Served from 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
$14.00 – chicken paprikash, coffee, tea, and dessert.
RSVP with Olga Nemecek: 216-447-0264
www.sokolgreatercleveland.org

Sunday, November 3, 2019
83rd Annual Banquet with the First Czechoslovak
Garden Club of America
Alpine Banquet House, 11141 W. Roosevelt Rd., Westchester, Illinois
Doors at 12:30 p.m., dinner at 1 p.m.; $30 to attend.
RSVP at 708-484-8242 or firstczechgardenclub@yahoo.com
www.firstczechgardenclub.com

Sunday, November 14, 2019
Annual St. Cecilia's Dinner Dance
Czechoslovak American Musicians Club, Mayfield Banquet Facility
6072 S. Archer Ave., Chicago, Illinois
12 p.m. – 5 p.m.; $32 ticket
RSVP with Ed Sasin at 312-806-0708 or mredsin@netzero.net

Saturday, November 23, 2019
CCACC Christmas Bazaar
Chicagoland Czech American Community Center
6635 Cermak Rd., Berwyn, Illinois
Save the date; Fun for the whole family!
www.chicagocacc.org

Continued on page 7
Hello, Brothers and Sisters,

Hollywood has always been a glamorous, powerful place and the mecca of the entertainment industry. The world of show business is unique and very unlike our own. In honor of this spooky month of October, we’re dedicating this month’s theme to the “Horrors of Hollywood.” Did you know that there have been some unexplainable and eerie occurrences on the sets of various movies, especially those in the horror genre? Working on movie sets can be stressful enough at it is, but ominous on-set ambiances in particular can leave you on edge and induce nightmares. For decades, various staffs have admitted to witnessing alleged paranormal sightings and activity during production.

Two major paranormal events hit the set of *Annabelle* (2014). First, during pre-production, Director John R. Leonetti reported seeing and taking a picture of “three fingers drawn through the dust along the window, backlit by the moon.” Notably in the movie, the demon of *Annabelle* has three fingers, or talons. Naturally, it spooked the director. Secondly, Producer Peter Safran can attest to an even more unexplainable event. During a shoot in an old apartment building, an actor in full makeup, dressed as a demon, walked down a hallway to the green room. An additional actor, who plays the building’s handyman in the film, casually followed in his tracks. All of a sudden an entire glass light fixture just fell on his head. This was particularly creepy because in the movie’s script, the demon attacks the janitor in that exact hallway.

*The Exorcist* (1973) was notoriously wrought with challenges before, during, and after its release. Though one incident in particular can be considered otherworldly. Two sets had been created on one sound stage. It included the main MacNeil house and Regan’s bedroom. Director William Friedkin recounted a fire that burned the set of the MacNeil house to the ground, destroying almost everything. The serious fire, believed to have been caused by a pigeon flying into a light box, put the production on hiatus for six weeks. However, despite the fire’s severity, it somehow managed to leave the nearby set of Regan’s bedroom entirely unharmed. Friedkin believes this event to be “some kind of bad karma.”

Technically speaking, this paranormal activity occurred in the editing room (not on the set) of *The Omen* (2006), but its effects on production were just as massive. After spending an entire day of shooting the infamous birthmark scene for this remake, Director John Moore claims nearly all of the resulting footage was inexplicably lost. An accident in the processing lab destroyed 13,500 feet of film, a loss so unheard of that Moore says had the baffled lab technicians “in tears.” The scene, which reveals a young boy to be the antichrist, had to be entirely reshot.

As you can see, the sets of horror movies can be just as disturbing as the movies themselves! Is it coincidence, or could it be something more? We’ll let you be the judge!

**Fraternally,**

Amanda S. Lovell
Fraternal Director
alovell@csalife.com

Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings! Fall is here and with it, opportunities for your CSA to show its support for local lodges and to connect with members who may not have a lodge close by, while promoting itself to those who may have heard of us but never had any contact.

Lodge Svetlo No. 277 member Susan Skrabanek had, for several years, encouraged CSA to attend a local festival held the second Saturday of September in Caldwell, Texas, aptly named the Kolache Festival. Susan is one of the organizers of this annual festival. When I think of Texas, I usually think about the vast impact that those who emigrated from Bohemia, Moravia, and other parts of the Austrian empire in the 1850s had on the development of the state’s culture. There is a large Czech community in Texas, to be sure.

Caldwell is home to about 4,000 people. I’m guessing that on September 14, over 20,000 people attended this fest. Chairman of the Board Irma Farrell, Miss CSA Hunter Yurkovich, Anna Trush, Heather, and I met a lot of friendly people and delighted in catching up with old CSA friends! There was polka music everywhere, a polka contest, a parade of costumes, loads of food vendors, and merchandise vendors. CSA sponsored a Kolache Eating Contest. Congratulations to the winners of the contest. We enjoyed the many displays from vendors, tasty fair treats, and of course, pivo! I encourage everyone to check out this festival next year. You will not be disappointed. Thank you, Susan, for inviting us to this great event! Thank you, Hunter, for joining us. It was a hot day in the sun, and you represented CSA very well!

In the next few weeks, CSA will have attended BrewNost with Board Members Ledvina and Dvorsky in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Then, we will be back again with former Board Members Nejdl and Ditch, and the local lodges in October for the “Especially for You Breast Cancer Run.”

If you are attending the 2019 CGSI Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska, please visit our table and say hello to Amanda and Irma.

Miss CSA will join Board Member Tranter and me at the Virginia Czech and Slovak Folklife Festival.

CSA is fortunate to have both current and former Board Members who actively promote membership and genuinely enjoy representing the interests and concerns of the members in each of our regions.

Fall is a great time to enjoy a festival. Please let us know about any activities in your area that you are planning or attending and send us information so that we can post them on our Facebook page.

Fraternally,
Matthew A. Koski

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Meet the Member

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.
Hello Brothers and Sisters,

Summer has officially come to an end, and we are well into the new school year. I hope all students had an easy transition into their new school routine. Unfortunately, I still have a bad case of “senioritis” from the beginning of the semester, but I hope to make a full recovery before finals week.

This month happens to be my favorite time of the year. October means that the weather is cooling off, the leaves are changing color, fall festivities are happening, Halloween is coming, and most importantly... hockey is back! Let’s Go Pens! I also plan on binge-watching Halloween movies, especially “Hocus Pocus,” and going to the pumpkin patch. What will you be doing this October?

Last month, I had the opportunity to travel to Caldwell, Texas for the 35th Annual Kolache Festival. Let me start off by saying Texas heat is no joke! Despite the heat, I enjoyed watching the Czech Beseda Dancers, judging the Kolache Eating Contest, and meeting Miss Westfest and Miss Kolache Festival! Both ladies wore beautifully decorated kroje, which I was a little jealous of. I couldn’t leave the “Kolache Capitol of Texas” without tasting a few koláčky, and, of course, they were delicious!

This month, I will be traveling to Prince George, Virginia for the Czech and Slovak Folklife Festival. Head on over to the CSA Fraternal Life Facebook page to view more of my event photos and to keep up with my travels.

Fraternally,
Sis. Hunter Rae Yurkovich

Calendar of Events

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Saturday, November 30, 2019
78th Annual Christmas Around the World
Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago
5700 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois
11 a.m. – Program included with general admission to the museum. The Czech tree will be on display until January 5. Hosted by the Moravian Cultural Society
www.moravianculturalsociety.org www.msichicago.org

Sunday, December 1, 2019
D.C. No. 12 Cultural Division Christmas Party
Crystal Sky Banquets, 7941 47th St., McCook, Illinois
Doors at 12 p.m., dinner at 1 p.m.; $25 to attend.
D.C. No. 12 Lodge Officers will be honored (They must be in attendance to be honored.)
Raffle to be held and Cultural Division cookbooks for sale.
RSVP with your Lodge Secretary or call Caroline Johnston at 708-387-9423.

Sunday, December 1, 2019
St. Nick Pancake Breakfast
American-Czech Educational Center
4690 Lansdowne Ave., St. Louis, Missouri
9 a.m. to 11 a.m. – Breakfast is served
10:30 a.m. – St. Nick arrives
$6 for adults; $4 for children 12 and under
Admission includes meal, games, craft, and a gift from St. Nick. The Christmas Boutique will have items available for purchase.

*All Journal articles are due the 12th of the month prior to publication
(Ex: Articles for January would be due December 12.)
2020 CSA Get-Together

Our Florida lodges - Lodge Slunce No. 374 and Lodge St. Petersburg No. 463 - are very excited and honored to be hosting the 2020 CSA Get-Together at Clearwater Beach, Florida. All are invited to attend, so mark your calendars today! Bring your whole family!

Lodge mailings with Get-Together information will go out in October and November. Watch the CSA Journal for more information. Like our new page on Facebook: 2020 CSA Fraternal Life Get Together - Clearwater Beach Florida.

Theme: “Seeing Clearly in 2020”
We are a family and volunteering is what we do!

When:
July 31, 2020 - August 2, 2020 (arrival on Thursday)

Where:
Holiday Inn & Suites, Clearwater Beach, Florida.
Room cost: $149 per night
Room accommodations include 2 adults and 2 children
Each room is equipped with a microwave, small refrigerator, Keurig Coffee Brewer, and complimentary internet.

Hotel offers:
Pool and Tiki Bar overlooking the Gulf
Ballroom with outdoor patio overlooking the Gulf
State of the Art Fitness Center
Large Arcade Room
In house restaurants and coffee shop
Centrally located for easy access to everything on Clearwater Beach.

Airports:
Tampa International Airport (20 miles);
St Petersburg/Clearwater Airport (14 miles)

Imagine yourself walking along the soft white sugar sand of Clearwater Beach - Voted "#1 Beach in the US" - and finding the perfect spot to watch the beautiful sunset over the Gulf. Be adventurous and rent jet skis, parasail, or take a ride on a pirate ship. Did you ever want to go Deep Sea fishing? This is the place to make that happen. During the weekend, you will enjoy lots of family fun time, delicious food, dancing, and breathtaking views! Visit the Clearwater Marine Aquarium and meet Winter from the movie Dolphin Tales 1 and 2. Take a Behind-the-Scenes Tour. Learn what each of us can do to protect our marine animals.

Please let us know if there are any special needs you might have.

Fraternally,
2020 Get-Together Committee
Bernadette Bleiker, Deb Anderson, Gary Stupka, and Joy Bleiker
2020csaclearwaterbeach@gmail.com
The Colors of the Kroj

Have you ever wondered what the colors embroidered on the kroj mean? Recently, CSA members Blanche Bidnik and Frank Zabransky did some research about that and put up a display in the Sokol Hall in Little Ferry, New Jersey, and here is what they found –

WHITE is the symbol of cleanliness and purity. It is the color to be worn for holidays and important occasions, like weddings and christenings.

BROWN and BLACK are colors associated with fertility. In a traditional wedding, the bride wears brown or black so the couple would have children.

GOLD or YELLOW are colors denoting the sun, harvest, and in general, riches.

RED is the color of happiness and life.

DARK BLUE used to be the color of older people, widows and widowers, and work clothes because of easy cleaning.

GREEN is associated with spring, summer, fertility, natural childbirth, and renewal. Green is a color worn by children as a symbol of long-lasting youth and energy.

Submitted by:
Director Carol Tranter
Lodge Bratri od Sazavy No. 211
When Movie Sets Go Totally Haywire

The Twilight Zone Tragedy
*The Twilight Zone: The Movie*, 1983

From the start of production, Director John Landis had been cutting corners and making risky choices. This angered Steven Spielberg. The two were longtime friends and collaborators, however, the tragic events that followed would end their friendship forever. Director Landis – perhaps he should’ve been called Dictator Landis – made questionable choices while on set. He screamed at actors and technicians; forced workers to do dangerous stunts that went against their better judgment; skirted the laws about shooting at night and pyrotechnics usage; and he even chose to use live ammunition during some of the filming. Though, none of that even compares to the horrifying events of July 23, 1982.

Veteran actor Vic Morrow was shooting a scene with two child performers, Myca Dinh Le (7) and Renee Shin-Yi Chen (6). The shoot required a low-flying helicopter, high winds, a scaffolding, and pyrotechnics. This was a recipe for disaster, but Landis ignored the technicians’ pleas for him to suspend shooting. The helicopter pilot was ordered to fly lower and lower, and in the chaos, one of the mortar effects was blown at the wrong time, destabilizing the helicopter. Vietnam War veteran helicopter pilot Dorcey Wingo did his best, but unfortunately, the three actors perished from the crash. One silver lining from this terrible tragedy is that greater regulations regarding on-set safety were established and are still in place today. We hope that accidents like the horrific *Twilight Zone* helicopter crash never happen again.

When We Almost Lost Ed Harris
*The Abyss*, 1989

“*The Abyss* was a lot of things; fun to make was not one of them,” is an exact quote from Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio who played Lindsay Brigman in this underwater thriller. Director James Cameron constructed two giant water tanks to use for filming purposes on the grounds of the Cherokee Nuclear Power Plant in South Carolina. The small tank was a mere 150,000 gallons, and the large tank was an unfathomable 7.5 million gallons, 55 feet deep, and over 200 feet across.

The shooting days were long and arduous, and Cameron was relentless and unforgiving with his actors. He pushed them to do their own swimming stunts, often without the aid of scuba gear. At one point, actor Ed Harris was required to do an insane three-minute underwater shot with no gear to aid him except his own lungs. During one take, he and co-star Leo Burmester completed their swim, just as they had in rehearsal and in the previous take, only to find that the ladder that led to the surface wasn’t where they expected it to be. Panicked and running out of air, they finally spotted the ladder, which had been moved even further away. No one had notified the actors. Harris and Burmester made it to the surface in time, thank goodness, but it left Harris furious with James Cameron, a grudge he still holds to this day.

Mishaps During Maximum Overdrive
*Maximum Overdrive*, 1986

Stephen King is the master of horror books without a doubt, but with movies, not so much. If King suffered from any problems as a director, ambition wasn’t one of them, however lack of experience and a massive drug habit were. Camera Assistant Silvia Giulietti recalls a tense atmosphere during filming. She states that Stephen King liked extreme danger and brought that mentality to the set with him. Every day there were explosions. She was scared because she recalls Stephen King felt pleasure seeing difficult and dangerous situations. Actress Laura Harrington put it succinctly, “You just always felt like someone was going to die on this set.” There was an accident involving an ice cream truck that almost killed a cameraman, a hurricane struck the set during filming, and there was another incident where the crew had trouble extinguishing a stunt man while filming a man-on-fire stunt.

King’s greatest mishap was during a scene involving a runaway lawnmower, which was being controlled remotely and shot from below. He refused to remove the blades, even though they weren’t even visible. Unfortunately the renegade lawnmower went, well, renegade, and sped past where it was supposed to stop. It hit the camera with the unremoved spinning blades, slicing off a splinter of plastic and sending it flying. Against all odds, it struck Veteran Director of Photography Armando Nannuzzi in the eye. Nannuzzi was rushed to the hospital where surgery was performed to remove the piece, though ultimately he never regained sight in that eye. He did, however, return to finish the project, because it takes more than being blinded by cruel negligence to stop Armando Nannuzzi. He sued King and the studio for $18 million dollars, a suit that was settled out of court. King has since retired after directing after his one and only feature, and probably for good reason.
When Movie Sets Go Totally Haywire

Surviving Stanley Kubrick’s Antics
The Shining, 1980

Actress Shelley Duvall reports being terrorized by a demon on the set of The Shining, only this demon was human. Stanley Kubrick is known for being a control freak during filming. Though on the set of this movie and with Duvall in particular, he took it to a whole new level. Through the entire 13 months of filming, he did his best to create “an atmosphere of fear and isolation” for Duvall by screaming at her, intimidating her, and forcing her to complete take after take. For one iconic scene, he made her repeat it 127 times.

By the end of shooting, Duvall’s body was breaking down and she started to get sick. “From May until October I was really in and out of ill health because the stress of the role was so great,” said Duvall. “Stanley pushed me and prodded me further than I’ve ever been pushed before. It’s the most difficult role I’ve ever had to play.”

Cancer from The Conqueror?
The Conqueror, 1956

In today’s world, no one would even think to shoot a movie near a functioning nuclear testing site. To be fair, even in the early 1950s it was known that blast zones produce massive amounts of fallout that is highly radioactive and potentially lethal. Still, the directors of The Conqueror decided to shoot the film just a hundred miles away from the infamous Nevada Test Site. The mushroom clouds were tens of thousands of feet high, and strong winds carried radioactive particles all the way to the Utah desert. In 1954 when they started filming the movie, the barren hills around St. George were likely covered with a layer of deadly nuclear dust.

Despite this movie having some excellent actors, such as John Wayne, Susan Hayward, and Pedro Armendáriz, the film was an absolute critical flop. It was even listed as one of the 50 worst films of all time in 1978. So, it’s unfortunate that out of 220 people who worked on the production of The Conqueror, 92 were afflicted with cancer, including Wayne, Hayward, and Armendáriz. Although it cannot be definitively proven that the cancers were directly linked to the production location, experts argue that the sheer number of ailing workers and actors cannot be dismissed as mere coincidence. In the 1970s when Director Howard Hughes realized that the people involved in the film were dying, he felt an immense amount of guilt, considering he approved the location of production.


The CSA Fraternal Life Home Office and District Council #12 are hosting the Family Holiday Party

Sunday, November 24, 2019 • 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Safari Land
Indoor Amusement Park
701 W. North Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181

RSVP Requested By:
Tuesday, November 19, 2019

RSVP by mailing the form to the CSA Home Office, emailing Amanda at alovell@csalife.com, or calling us at 800-LIFE-CSA.

Checks payable to: CSA District Council #12 (may be submitted at the party.)

Write Lodge Name or “Guests”:

Kids (Ages 0-17) FREE! Adults (Ages 18+) $5 EACH

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Lodge Happenings

Travel News

Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs No. 432, Lakewood, Colorado – Where has the summer gone? Big news for my family – my second great grandson, Hugo Ray, was born on August 15 and weighed 8 lbs., 10 oz. He joins his three year old brother Otto and parents Nyle and Lauren Kenning.

Avid reader, puzzle solver, and Lodge Vice President Mary Campe won the 1st place prize in our local library summer reading program, a $125 gift card to a local book store! Your modest Scribe also won a $15 meal at a favorite restaurant.

At our August lunch, Anna Farrar regaled guests of Dr. Sandy Hoe’s with her travel stories. Honeymooners David and Julie Boyd, both recent PhD grads of Glasgow, Scotland and he, a student of Sandy’s, were her guests. He is Scotch and she is French. Sandy’s summer highlight was traveling to Roanoke, Virginia with her older daughter, Amy Doc-Torrez, to see the graduation of her younger daughter, Andrea. She graduated from Holland University with a M.A. in Screenwriting. They then visited Stratford, Virginia and had a fabulous time.

You can always count on Mary Lou Benning for travel news. Another cousin’s wedding was held in Leipzig, Germany. The groom’s mother made delicious “kuchen” (cake) for everyone. A city bus tour was included, as well as a trip to Prague to visit relatives.

Adella Schulz came to lunch, proudly wearing a t-shirt proclaiming “My grandson goes to Washington State.” He’s on an academic scholarship. Dot and Ron Fox brought one of their 60 year old twins, Lisa, from California. Lynne lives here, and both are retired. Irma Wolf informed us that she is displaying her unique quilts this summer.

In September, we held our fall potluck, which was a delightful garden party held in President Irma Farrell’s impressive backyard. The flowers were gorgeous, and the vegetable plants were fruitful. We had two guests join us – Shirley from the Genealogical Society and Mike, “The Mid-Century Furniture Man,” who is a neighbor of Anna Farrar’s.

On a more somber note, recent widower Jack Griffin showed us photos of Donna Griffin’s proposed rose garden at Barr Lake where they both volunteered at for many years.

Anne presented Irma with a large watercolor painting of kolache, bread, etc. that was completed in 1969 in Bratislava by one of Anne’s uncles. Vice President Mary Campe entertained the luncheon guests with an original trivia game of specific dates and events. Prizes were won by Dot Fox and Shirley.

Jack Strunc was drafted by the Florida Marlins and spent the summer in Batavia, New York and also visited Niagara Falls. He came home for a week on his mother Krista’s birthday on September 12 and will spend the baseball hiatus in Omaha as a financial intern. Irma recently attended the Kolache Festival in Caldwell, Texas with the new Miss CSA, Hunter Yurkovich, and other representatives from the CSA Home Office.

It’s still hot here but we also have some rain showers, and unfortunately, wild fires! Happy Halloween from all of us!

Fraternally,
Pat Kenning
Lodge Happenings

Information on Antarctica

Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio – Fall is almost here! Our September meeting was held on a warm fall day. One of the nicest events at this meeting was the celebration of Norma Rosoletti’s 99th birthday! We are so lucky to have Norma in our lodge. She is such a sweet, kind, and spry 99 year old. We can’t believe how active she is. Thanks to our other member, Carol Cirillo, who gives her rides everywhere so she can attend all of our meetings!

We missed singing “Happy Birthday” to Joan Sapp, who had a birthday in July, so we sang for her at our August meeting. We also sang “Happy Birthday” to Dolores Clark for her August birthday.

We attended a memorial service at the July 24 District Council picnic for Helen Martanovic. She was a very active member of our lodge and other lodges, and also the dear aunt of Judy (Sevcik) Genco and Karen (Sevcik) Buzek.

The granddaughter of Dolores Clark graduated from college on July 10, 2019. She is Marie Clark, daughter of Dusty and Bonnie Clark. Marie graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor of Science degree in Advanced Medical Imaging. She already has a job at Mercy Hospital in Cincinnati. Congratulations, Marie!

On August 13, we had a speaker, Janet Glaeser, who showed us slides of her trip to Antarctica. It was a lovely presentation with colorful pictures of icebergs, the clear waters of Antarctica, penguins – lots of them! – and seals. There are very strict rules about not approaching the penguins and walking in straight lines in order to not disturb them. Thank you to Freddie Shima for introducing Janet to our lodge.

We had a lunch bag contest in August. Tony Genco won the cutest bag.

At our September meeting, Jan Russell told us a little about her trip to Peru. Her husband, son, and she climbed one of the highest mountains in the Andes Mountains. They also toured some other cities in Peru.

Jan and her husband also went to the Get-Together in Iowa. She said they had a really nice time. Everything was organized and fun.

We received a thank you note from Tyler Franz for his CSA Scholarship and a thank you from the Home Office for our scholarship donations we made in the name of Helen Martanovic and Betty Svaty.

We received an information pamphlet from the Providence House (one of our charities). They are doing such good work with children. Ninety-eight percent of children were able to be re-united with their parents/guardians. They were able to care for 303 children from 162 families from 31 ZIP codes. Eighty-nine percent of families were fully engaged in the services that were provided. Most of the children from were either homeless or from compromised homes. There are more children on waiting lists that need care. We hope this organization can expand and accommodate those children in need. We donated book bags, school supplies, and clothes to Providence House.

Our September meeting ended with a pizza party (thank you to Kathy Gawrilow) and rousing games of bingo. Dolores and Camille won our 50/50 raffle.

Until next month,
Fraternally yours,
Judy (Sevcik) Genco
Lodge Happenings

“Prune Song Waltz”

Lodge Yankee-Jungmann No. 77, North Riverside, Illinois – In June our lodge held its meeting at a local restaurant. We had a memorial tribute to Geri Pohanka. Her daughter Nancy participated in the service.

On Sunday, July 28, the Czechoslovak American Congress Festival Picnic was held in Summit, Illinois. We had five members and two junior members attend the event. Everyone enjoyed the new location and especially the homemade potato pancakes.

Five members from our lodge attended the Get-Together in Iowa. Friday morning, we met in the lobby and filled backpacks for children in the area. Friday evening, we drove to the town of Vining. As we drove up, I noticed a building with the name “Riha Auto Sales.” My maiden name is Riha! I asked around and found out that the week before, they held an auction of the owner’s estate. His family sold farm equipment and autos. He is now 90 years old and is in assisted living. Everyone thought he lived in Vining his entire life.

The CSA Hall that we had dinner in was built in 1912. The stage had a banner above it with names on it, and once again, the name Riha was listed. Vining is a small country town with a population of less than 50 people! How great it was to see farm fields, breathe in clean air, experience country life, and forget about the city for a little while.

On Saturday, we attended the banquet dinner. The band by the name of Barefoot Becky and the Ivanhoe Dutchman started playing the “Prune Song Waltz” and it brought back childhood memories of me playing it on my accordion for my father.

Thank you to Iowa’s District Council No. 14 for showing us your country life. Thanks to Fraternal Director Amanda Lovell and CSA Photographer Cynthia Hall for their long hours at the Get-Together.

Fraternally,
Mary Ellen Janda
GTG and Genealogy

Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora No. 231, Cicero, Illinois – I missed the August 14 Lodge meeting but can report on a presentation made to the members in attendance. Also, now that a few weeks have passed since the “Get-Together” held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 2-4, 2019, it’s time to reflect on moments of camaraderie, culture, food, and fun through the accompanying photos!

I believe I speak for the members of our Lodge attending the “Get-Together” in thanking Ken Dvorsky for the brilliant idea of hiring a bus to deliver our Chicagoland members to Cedar Rapids. What an experience! One of our stops along the way was Iowa 80 TA, the “World’s Largest Truck Stop.” The accompanying photo has members standing outside the entrance. It would take many hours to go through the building, eating and viewing all of the merchandise and hands-on displays.

We arrived at the hotel on Thursday afternoon, checked in, and got our bearings to prepare for the next morning. On Friday morning following registration, dressed in our blue CSA “work” shirts, all attendees gathered in the lobby area to help stuff backpacks with school supplies. These were designated for Project Night Night, an organization assisting children in need in the Cedar Rapids area.

Dinner on Friday evening included a bus ride to the historic CSA Hall. We passed the Riha Auto Sales in Vining, Iowa, an area known as the “Bohemian Alps.” A banner located in the hall also identified a person by the name of “Riha” (more information below). Dinner included pork chops and sausages made on the giant grill, among other things. Our members really enjoyed the evening, as you can see in the photo. Kudos to the cooks!

Roll was called on Saturday morning, followed by a presentation regarding “Fraud Watch” made by an AARP representative. She revealed startling, fraudulent programs targeting the public. Saturday afternoon included a trip to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library. I had no idea that it was so large... it’s huge! One could spend a whole day viewing the documentaries and displays.

Saturday evening’s dinner meeting included the coronation of Hunter Yurkovich of Lodge Groveton No. 4 as Miss National CSA. Then, following Sunday’s roll call and brunch, we were on our way home.

Now, back to our meeting on August 14, 2019... Our member Loretta Paulus spoke before the attendees regarding her experiences with her family genealogy. To her surprise during the Get-Together, while on the bus entering Vining, Iowa, she saw the “Riha” Auto Supply store and the banner in the local hall. She was so surprised and excited because Riha was her maiden name.

A note from Loretta:

“I started working on the Riha family’s genealogy about 20 years ago. When I started, my father Peter L. Riha and my mother Sabina (Nawracaj) Riha passed away. Only my aunt Emily (Riha) Sedivy was left living from our family of six. I am so happy that I started, at that time, working on the family history. She gave me a lot of information about the family that I had no knowledge of before. I learned a lot about the towns that my grandfather Frank Riha and grandmother Marie (Stumbaur) Riha had come from in the Czech Republic (then Bohemia). Also I learned about the relatives who were left in the Old Country. I learned that my grandfather was a blacksmith in Bohemia. He had two brothers, Peter and John. His brother Peter stayed with his wife and daughter in Bohemian Alps. His other brother John came to the USA with their mother Katherina (Blaha) Riha. I also learned that one of his younger sisters Anna (Riha) Parizek had come to the USA with her husband and daughter. I learned that my great-grandmother was the only one of her family who came to the USA.

While getting all this information together, I decided to see if I could find any records of my great-grandmother Katherina. I used the death notice from the Chicago Nedělní Hlasatel and learned that she died in 1939. She had been living in Downers Grove, Illinois with her grandson Jerry Riha and his family when she passed away. From this record, I learned that she was cremated at the Bohemian National Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois. I contacted their record office and found out that she was not buried there, but instead her daughter Anna Parizek had come and claimed her ashes. As of April 5, 2019, no traces can be found of Anna Parizek or my great-grandmother Katherina Riha’s ashes.”

Fraternally,
Elaine Tejcek
Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372, Bedford, Ohio – President Mary Ann called the August 22, 2019 meeting to order with nine members present. Lodge business was discussed. Ideas were given on where to go for the lodge Christmas Party. Donations were made to “Project Night Night” for the Cleveland area and the Scholarship Fund. Sunshine sent out several get well cards to members and Mary Ann thanked Diane for having her sister Donna give a presentation on her visit to Prague last month.

Diane reported on the Get-Together. She saw a lot of cornfields! The food was absolutely delicious and it was the best she ever had at a Get-Together. Mark your calendar. The next one will be in Clearwater, Florida on the first weekend in August. The Committee did a wonderful job for their very first Get-Together they had ever done. Diane had attended a speech about fraud. It was very informative. First and foremost, if you don’t recognize a phone number, don’t answer the phone!

Diane went over the LRP; the Lodge is on track to get the Platinum Award. Several lodge members attended Obzinky. There were a lot of nice gift baskets, and Diane’s hubby Gooey won a very nice lottery one. The Senior Center invited the lodge members to attend a Smoothie Demo that they were having in the main room. One of the senior women was looking for a trash can; she said didn’t care for the beet smoothie at all!

Please check your policies to be sure the Beneficiary is correct and update your address with the Home Office if need be.

We had another great lunch from the Senior Center. Reactivated member Lou Sounik said more people should come to the meetings, he’s glad he’s back!

Our next meetings are October 24, November 22, and December 12 (location TBA). Meetings are held at the Maple Heights Senior Center. Come to a meeting. For $1.50, you can have a nice lunch and reconnect/connect with your fellow Lodge members!

Fraternally,
Annette Reichman

Watch for Mike Kupinski on PBS!

Lodge Estlian No. 404, Fairview Heights, Illinois – There is some important news to share with you. Please make a note that announcements of future meetings will be sent to members via email. We have had some great meetings lately but would like more of you to join us!

This month, we met at a new restaurant and not only caught up on lodge business, but we also heard about President Mike Kupinski’s business TV program. It will be focused on stocks and finances. It will be carried on the air by various PBS channels that are yet to be determined. Keep an eye on the website at www.channelchek.com for updates and also check out their YouTube page. Congratulations, Mike!

My email address is: ardnas210@aol.com.

On December 8, we will have our annual Christmas party and we need reservations from you. Please call Libby Rich at 618-978-5869 to RSVP. All details are not finalized just yet but save the date!

We want to know what’s going on with our members! Please email me with your news so we can share the updates. We’d love to hear from you!

Best,
Sandra Haney

October Anniversaries

October 6
Pat (Sale) Hrasky and Jim Hrasky, Lodge Estlian No. 404

October 21, 1978
Katherine Juliana Urbanek Kroeck and George Joseph Kroeck
Lodge Betsy Ross No. 151

Would you like your anniversary recognized?
Send your names, anniversary date and Lodge name and number to csajournaleditor@gmail.com
2019 Scholarship Recipients

Samuel Cook
Lodge Endicott
No. 450

Zachary Cuda
Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora No. 231

Tyler Frantz
Lodge Cleveland Chapter
No. 219

Geriann Grabinski
Lodge DuPage
Pioneers/Edison No. 409

Carter Hamrin
Lodge Woodrow Wilson
No. 377

Ben Kadlec
Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield
No. 378

Francesca Mahmoud
Lodge DuPage
Pioneers/Edison No. 409

Klara Missling
Lodge Slunce
No. 374

Kirstin Novak
Lodge Rovnost
No. 53
2019 Scholarship Recipients

Gardner Raha
Lodge Slunce
No. 374

Amanda Smith
Lodge DuPage
Pioneers/Edison No. 409

Matthew Tiplady
Lodge Christa
No. 479

CSA Scholarship Top Winner

Bro. Jonathan Varga of Lodge Laurel No. 452 received the 2019 Best of Class Award of $4,000. Jonathan will be attending the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut, where he plans to major in Manufacturing Engineering and Management.

Jonathan Varga
Lodge Laurel
No. 452

Rachel Vernetti
Yankee-Jungmann
No. 77

Joseph Weissensel
Lodge Sionilli
No. 170

Congratulations to All!
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

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Lodge Kruh Osvojenych Zen A Panu No. 121, Dillonvale, Ohio – Well, friends, October is finally spreading her beautiful palette in the Ohio Valley. The bright sunshine and crisp air has really helped produce some brilliant fall foliage. Author Hal Borland writes…

“October is the fallen leaf, but it is also a wider horizon more clearly seen. It is the distant hills once more in sight, and the enduring constellations above them once again.”

What beautiful words to describe such an awesome time of the year! I recall the saying, “my favorite color is October.”

Just as it takes many colors to add to a full harvest kaleidoscope, it also takes many hands to keep the charitable acts of our lodge going. Most recently our members have donated and worked for the Annual Hugh Smith Memorial Pancake Breakfast. The Lovells, Ebrights, and Sniders have been donating to other various church projects in their respective churches as well.

Elijah Lovell has been active in a variety of school clubs and organizations, while Delores Shinkarow has been providing food and companionship for a relative in need as well as crafting items for a local church ladies’ group. Delores is a proud 90 year old who hasn’t let that number hold her back from volunteering. We are all so proud of her!

You see, most of us have heard the old saying, “If you want something done, ask a busy person!” The real truth is that each one of us is that busy person! All of our members hold positions and membership in many community organizations in addition to our lodge.

In talking with other CSA members nationwide, I find that we are not alone. Many of our members are just like us—volunteering and donating time and resources to a variety of clubs and causes. Is it our heritage?…the examples set forth by our ancestors?…our generous hearts?

Whatever it is, how fortunate we are to have the ability, resources, and determination to help others! As we begin to start the “hunker down” process before winter approaches, let’s take a minute to think about our service projects. Perhaps we can put some of those upcoming long winter days and nights to use helping others. Thanks for all you do in the name of CSA and all the other respective groups to which you belong!

“The end of the summer is not the end of the world. Here’s to October…” A.A. Milne
Volunteering….It’s what we do!

Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell

Scholarship Fund Report

August 10, 2019 - September 10, 2019

TO CONTINUE CSA’S TRADITION OF ASSISTING YOUNG MEMBERS IN PURSUING THEIR HIGHER EDUCATION
Lodge Young America No. 392
Judith M. Prevratil
Lodge Golden Gate No. 252

IN MEMORY OF DECEASED LODGE MEMBERS
Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372

IN MEMORY OF MARY ZANZANO
Ben and Laura Landfeld
Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219

IN HONOR OF THE HOLUBECK FAMILY AND ST. CLAIR LANES FOR ALL THEIR HELP WITH THE 2019 BOWL-O-RAMA
District Council No. 9

IN MEMORY OF PETE WODARCYK
Lodge Belmont No. 251

PROCEEDS LEFT OVER FROM THE CSA 83RD ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER HELD IN CEDAR RAPIDS IOWA
83rd Get-Together Committee

TOTAL DONATIONS $6,952.78
Preparation to End the Year with Good Taste

Lodge Woodrow Wilson No. 377, Lombard, Illinois – Make note on your calendars: November is a big month ahead! This meeting means that it’s election time for next year’s officers, and you can have a voice and a vote – just come and join us! In addition, we will hold our annual craft night in November. I know that I earlier announced this for October, but we recently learned that key members are away for that meeting, so we have decided to shift to the following month to encourage greater participation. The holiday ornaments that we create that evening will be donated to Tabor Hills assisted living, where the residents are always very appreciative. To entice you to join us (in case “fun with crafts” is not enough!), we also will have a special food competition that night. This was a real crowd-pleaser last year, so we plan to repeat that success! We ask everyone to bring a dish to share – appetizer or dessert; savory or sweet; a homemade specialty or your favorite “carry-out.” Everyone will get a chance to taste-test the variety of treats and then vote on their favorite(s) – the winner gets a prize! What will you bring to the party?

December’s meeting always means holiday fun and fraternality: it’s time for our annual toy drive, as well as an end-of-year holiday potluck. An entrée will be provided; please bring a dessert or side dish to share. No competition this time: just a chance to enjoy socializing with lodge friends, over a nice meal together. For the toy drive, we collect toys, games, books, winter accessories, and more: please keep in mind that donations will serve children of families in need in our community, representing a range of ages – from toddlers through teens. Gift cards are also welcome! We are proud of the incredible past generosity of our lodge members for this yearly tradition, and we appreciate every contribution. If you cannot attend the December meeting, just give me a call and we can arrange a pick-up. Please come and join us for any or all of these special activities – we would love to see you!

Fraternally,
Jean Hemzáček Laukant
hemzacek.j@gmail.com / 630-279-7894

Mil’s smiling face reflects how happy we all were to see Bob Husa at lodge picnic!

So glad that the entire Hamrin-Ebenroth clan joined our picnic fun!
Seventeen Years in the Making

Lodge Benjamin Franklin No. 02, Seven Hills, Ohio – August, the final hurrah of summer, is becoming a most popular month for births as well as for weddings. It was on a warm evening of August 3, following a day and a half of coaxing from mom, dad, and the staff of Metro Health, that baby Bryce Michael Wallace made his stage debut at 6:28 p.m. The headliner weighed in at a healthy seven pounds, one ounce, and was 19 inches long. He had quite an operatic voice, as new mom and dad, Candice and Ryan Wallace, can well attest. Congrats and best wishes to the Wallace family!

It has been 32 years since we have had a birth in my immediate family. This summer, Nan and I had been blessed with not one, but two beautiful grandchildren within two months. Extending out to cousins, we can add baby Vivian Hansen and baby Stella Malinowski. I think 2019 has been a very good year and hopefully a good recruiting year for the lodge!

“Seventeen Years In The Making,” that was the word spread among the guests at the wedding of Scott Krecow and Allyson Pfundstein Dobbert on Saturday, August 17, 2019. The back-yard of Allyson’s brother’s served as the venue, which included large tents and a Hawaiian theme throughout. All the guests wore their finest island attire for the late afternoon nuptials. It rained most of the day, but as the ceremony was to begin, the rain stopped and the sun came out. Nearby church bells even began to ring. It could have been divine intervention or possibly an arrangement made by best man Bill Daglow! The weather remained nice the rest of the evening as the guests of the luau enjoyed great food, beverages, and danced to the music of the DJ. Congratulations Mr. and Mrs. Krecow!

As the bowling season has already begun, best of luck to the Lodge Franklin Keglers in defending their championship of the Parma Builders League of Seven Hills Lanes!

Just a reminder, our next meeting is October 21, and please join us for the all important election of officers meeting on November 18. The location is the Inn Between Bar & Grill, 8684 Ridge Road, North Royalton, Ohio at 6:30 p.m.

Fraternal regards,
Jeff Zidlicky
Lodge Franklin Scribe@gmail.com
Visit to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium

Lodge Slunce No. 374, Ocklawaha, Florida – Joy Bleiker and I visited the Clearwater Marine Aquarium (CMA) to get to know more about what they do and their mission: Rescue, Rehab, Release.

“We believe in preserving our environment while inspiring the human spirit through leadership in the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of marine life; environmental education; research; and conservation. We are a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization.”

We had a fun and educational behind-the-scenes tour. We saw the equipment they use to rescue distressed or hurt animals. We learned about their many rescues and where the marine animal is now. We got to meet the “kitchen crew” cutting up pounds of home grown romaine lettuce and weighing out many pounds of fish for each animal. We saw the various animal ICUs and even got to see one of their newest patients: Scooter.

Let me tell you about Scooter. Scooter is a Sub-Adult, Loggerhead Sea Turtle. She was rescued on August 25, 2019. A fisherman accidentally caught her. There was a metal “J” hook, used for sharks, caught in her throat and a metallic fishing line hanging out. The rescue team secured the wire (never try to pull one out of a turtle) and then took x-rays. They found that the large “J” hook was deep in her esophagus and was unable to be removed orally due to its size and depth. Scooter underwent surgery to remove the “J” hook, which had to be broken in several pieces in order for it to be removed. Scooter has a long recovery ahead of her, but the CMA team is very optimistic! Visit the CMA website for more information on Scooter’s recovery: www.seewinter.com.

We also had a chance to meet the dolphins who live at CMA: Winter, PJ, and Hope. Next month, we will tell you more about Winter, the Dolphin. In the meantime, watch the movies Dolphin Tale 1 and 2!

Fraternally,
Bernadette Bleiker
Lodge Happenings

Chili Contest Coming

Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409, Lombard, Illinois – Our September meeting was called to order by President Jerry Gaydusek. The Pledge and password followed. Jerry then turned the meeting over to Vice President Lyn Burton. Minutes were read and accepted, as was a Treasurer’s Report from Helen.

The Burtons reported on the lodge’s trip to the Naper Settlement in Naperville, Illinois. This settlement honors the establishment of Naperville by its founders. It contains a one-room schoolhouse, a blacksmith, a post office, and a mansion. It was an enjoyable afternoon in spite of the heat and humidity.

Birthday and anniversary wishes were given to Jim and Judy Wozniak who recently returned from New Jersey to attend graduation ceremonies for three grandchildren – one from college, one from high school, and one from middle school! We also sang “Happy Birthday” to Fraternal Director, Amanda Lovell.

The Gayduseks are planning a trip to Las Vegas to meet son Jim and wife Sandy who will be renewing their wedding vows! Other family and friends will also be attending their celebration.

Congratulations to Phil Arnone and Karole Gaydusek on their new granddaughter, Giovanna Rae Arnone, born on July 19 and weighing in at 6 pounds 10 ounces. Her proud parents are P.J. and Adrienne Arnone.

Exciting news for Jon and Jen Nekolny’s family. Daughter Jillian won the first place Platinum Award in Contemporary Dance and the first place Junior Novice Solo Division at the Legacy National Dance Championship. Congratulations!

Helene Schaefer will be traveling to Florida to deliver granddaughter Anastasia to college to finish up her Bachelor’s Degree.

This month’s raffle raised $70 for our lodge’s treasury. These dollars are allocated for charitable giving and social activities. Members continue to bring toiletries and other supplies for Hope’s Front Door.

After the meeting adjourned, we enjoyed bakery from the Burtons. A big thank you goes to Helen and Jerry Gaydusek for the delicious chicken dinner we all shared before the meeting! Next up is our meeting on Monday, October 21 when we will hold our very first Chili Contest. Join us if you can!

Fraternally,
Gerri Romanelli
Lodge Happenings

Lobster? No, We Will Help Others!

Lodge R.T. Crane Jr. No. 7, North Riverside, Illinois – Our August meeting was productive in many ways. We were excited to receive an envelope in the mail that contained a $100 raffle prize from the CSA Get-Together this year. We dreamed up lobster dinners and fancy outings as ways to spend the money but eventually decided to use it to help others.

Mary Lee told us about an organization called Little Mary’s Hospitality House. They offer a free vacation to families with children who are battling life-threatening or serious illnesses. We decided to buy a brick for their premises that will be inscribed with our lodge name.

Summer Concerts

Lodge Laurel No. 452, Ashford, Connecticut – At our June meeting, members came with lists and dates of area concerts to take place in several surrounding towns. We decided to attend as a group to the following: 1) The Coast Guard Band Concert at the new Shaboo Stage in Willimantic on July 3; 2) The band “Flamingo” at the Willington Athletic Complex on July 31; and 3) “Val Rogers and Her Jazz Group” Concert at the Willington Athletic Complex on August 21. Unfortunately, both Willington concerts were postponed because of weather, however, several of us made it to these concerts. All the summer concerts we attended were wonderful and we thoroughly enjoyed the terrific music!

We were especially excited to attend Val Rogers’ concert since she is a Lodge Laurel member. Some of us also attended a concert she presented in June at the Windham Center Library’s “Jazz in the Garden” event. Val is a talented lady and has been singing for many years. Earlier in her career, she participated in USO concerts for Servicemen. She continues to perform with her band and occasionally she performs with local community theater groups.

We are looking forward to our Fall and holiday activities! While chatting at our meeting, we discovered that multiple members attended the Route 66 Car Show in Berwyn recently. They said it was a beautiful day with a busy turnout and many beautiful cars.

Lastly, we discussed going to the same events as each other on purpose next time such as the Houby Day Parade, MCS’s Hospoda, and a Best Buddies mini-golf fundraiser held at Adam Wilt’s house.

Fraternally,
Alix Fron

We hope to see many of our members in attendance. Our Annual Memorial Service is scheduled for Sunday, October 20. Please contact the lodge secretary at laurel452@msn.com for more information.

Fraternally,
Marion Varga
Lodge Happenings

Happy Birthday Corporal Valestin!

Lodge Harrison/Hus/Garfield No. 378, Cicero, Illinois – The last few months have been interesting for our members. In June, Delaney Schretter graduated from middle school and is now a high school student. Good work, Delaney! Also, Kyle Dvorsky just announced his engagement to Kristyn Jeschelnik in July.

CSA member Corporal Charles J. Valestin Sr., 97 years old, was honored at the Chicago Cubs game on Thursday, August 22. Four generations of Valestins were there alongside him. In attendance were his two sons, Charles and David; David’s wife, Roxane; his two granddaughters, Jennifer and Kim; and two of his great grandsons, Reed and Caden. Coach Joe Maddon was out on the field with Charles to shake his hand. The color guard presented flags as they shared the story of Charles J. Valestin Sr., who is a World War II veteran and recipient of the World War II victory medal, the bronze star, along with several other medals of honor. It was a proud day for the entire family!

Our September meeting was at the Czech Plaza Restaurant for our fall luncheon. I thank Amanda Lovell and Anna Trush for attending and talking about CSA. At the luncheon, the lodge presented our CSA Serves donation to the T.G. Masaryk Czech School. We had President Andy Bultas and Secretary Roberta Kulik accept the check.

Our meetings will be back at the T.G. Masaryk Czech School. Also, please RSVP to our annual Christmas Party that will be held on December 14!

Fraternally,
Ken Dvorsky
Yahtzee!

Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Brookfield, Illinois – We hosted an excellent educational speaker at our August lodge meeting, or rather, he hosted us. The meeting was held at the home of Steve and Barb Deig, where Steve spoke about his hobby of creating and maintaining a beautiful koi pond in his own backyard.

Steve built and rebuilt his above-ground pond several times, each time improving upon the last, until the results were near perfection. To create a perfect koi pond, you must consider multiple factors, not the least of which includes water volume, quality, climate, fish load, filtration, aeration, vegetation, and predators. Koi are a generally hardy fish but it might be a good idea to join a koi society to benefit from the experience of others.

Koi fish are thought to have originated in China but the Japanese began breeding them for their aesthetic appeal in the mid-1800s. There are at least 100 distinct varieties of koi. With good care, a koi may live for 20 to 40 years but sometimes even as long as a century. The oldest individual koi on record survived over 220 years in Japan. Some koi are valued at $15 but highly sought-after fish can command many thousands of dollars.

All this may seem like a fair amount of planning and work but the end result is a calming refuge from the pressures of daily life. Additional features such as waterfalls, statues, or rock borders can be very pleasing to the eye as well. Experiencing a koi pond is a wonderful way to relax in nature while helping your overall mental and physical health.

Some upcoming Lodge Brookfield events remaining this year include our annual Yahtzee Night on October 9, Movie Night on November 13, and our December Christmas meeting at Stevens Restaurant in Downers Grove on December 11.

Lodge Brookfield meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at CSA Home Office in Lombard, Illinois. See you there!

Fraternally,
Kimberly Silhan
Lodge Washington No. 30, St. Louis, Missouri – The fall season is upon us, and that means it’s time to prepare for two big events on the Lodge calendar. The first is our Bake Sale on Sunday, November 3, at our American-Czech Educational Center. We hope to raise a lot of money for Honor Flight of St. Louis, and if any of our members want to contribute to the cause, we’ll accept baked goods such as brownies, cookies, cupcakes, or whatever your specialty might be. Contact Deborah Zeman at 314-732-9620 to arrange for pickup, or you can drop them off at the Center that morning between 9 and 10 a.m. This has been a very successful activity in past years and we hope to continue that success this time.

Future Activities

Lodge Anton J. Cermak No. 99, Brookfield, Illinois – The September lodge meeting discussed future activities, such as a December trip to the Brookfield Zoo to view Christmas trees decorated by local organizations, sing carols to the animals, and enjoy hot chocolate.

The lodge received a sweet note from Sis. Alice Bergquist, whose attendance has been spiritual rather than physical. She donated several bags of clothes that were taken to Pillars Community Health.

Fraternally,
Chuck Courtney

Fraternal Well Wishes

Roger Fritsch
Lodge Anton J. Cermak No. 99

Linda Rivoli
Lodge Anton J. Cermak No. 99

The next event after that will be the Lodge’s annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 8, also at the ACEC. We’re doing something different this year with a new menu, but we’ll still have the gift exchange, the candy guessing game, a visit from Santa, and a special charitable collection to be determined. Invitations will go out to all members, and we hope to see a good turnout.

December 14 is the date for the Great St. Louis Beer Festival at the Center, with many of the craft brewers in the area – and there are a lot! – taking part. Information is available on their Facebook page at STL Pivo. Tickets will be available shortly, and we encourage everyone to make their reservations early – they go quickly!

Fraternally,
Deborah Zeman
Lodge Happenings

Five Seasons Stand Down

Lodge Prokop Velky No. 137, Cedar Rapids, Iowa – Our members volunteered at the 2019 Five Seasons Stand Down on Friday, September 6. The Linn County Veterans Affairs, in partnership with the Cedar Rapids Metro Area Veterans Council, the Iowa City VA Health Care System Medical Center, and the Linn County Continuum of Care hosted this great event.

The Five Seasons Stand Down and Resource Fair helps people who are homeless or near-homeless transition into community living by providing access to human service agencies, benefits counseling, employment and training assistance, eye exams, health care screenings, housing services, legal assistance, behavioral health treatment, and substance abuse counseling. In addition, Great Clips also provided haircuts to interested participants. Our lodge is very grateful to have participated in this great event.

Fraternally,
Rai Ann Stratton

Vera Wilt on WGN Radio

Lodge Sionilli No. 170, Brookfield, Illinois – In August, we attended a wonderful concert at Cantigny Park. The weather cooperated for us and we were even joined by members of Lodge R. T. Crane. Before the concert we gathered at the Smoluchas’ home for burgers, brats, and beverages. Thanks for hosting, Smoluchas!

Recently, Vera Wilt was featured on WGN radio. She was listening to Steve Cochran’s morning show and he was talking about “trying to learn Czech” because he is going to Prague in October for the Chicago Blackhawks Hockey Game. He admitted to probably pronouncing everything wrong and asked for a listener who speaks Czech to call in. Vera jumped at the opportunity, called, got on-air, and had a nice chat with him. Later that morning, Vera received a call from his producer who asked her to come down to the studio the next day to be on the show for a longer segment. Vera took the offer and was able to give Steve many tips for his travels. She even brought him some Czech pastries from Vesecky’s Bakery in Berwyn. It just so happened that another lodge member, Stan Smolucha, was listening to the radio station that morning and heard the whole thing! How fun that Vera could share the Czech culture with Chicago radio listeners!

Now for our joke of the month… If money really did grow on trees, what would be everyone’s favorite month?...Fall!

Fraternally,
Alix Fron
Lodge Happenings

“The Psychology of Learning”

Lodge Virginia No. 230, Colonial Heights, Virginia – August turned out to be a busy month. Besides the Get-Together in Cedar Rapids at the beginning of the month, I, Bro. Tom Michalek, also attended a teachers’ seminar at Millfield School in Somerset, England, with a side trip to London.

Once again, I had a great time at the Get-Together. It’s so good to see everyone and to share stories, and, of course, listen to Frank Zabransky play the piano! This year, I had the privilege of attending with two sisters, Anne and Dorothy. I want to give many thanks to Peg Zach for taking my sister Anne and me to the Meskwaki Settlement. The souvenirs I bought there have been displayed at my school, EN Discovery, in Minsk. You can visit our website at www.eng.by. I was able to give casino coins to folks I met at the teachers’ seminar. I look forward to next year’s Get-Together at Clearwater Beach, Florida. I just hope the hurricanes stay away!

The area of England where the teacher’s seminar was held was very beautiful. The grass was very green, flowers were everywhere, and there were so many sheep! The theme of the workshop was “The Psychology of Learning.” There were many great presenters and very enlightening information was shared with us. Belarus, with 25 teachers, had the largest delegation. During the course of the seminar, I was privileged to meet teachers from the Czech Republic, Russia, Uruguay, Italy, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Spain, and Morocco. In London, I learned the importance of looking right before you cross the street and to look left once you reached the median. I almost had to use my insurance when I looked right at the median... it was close!

Besides teaching, I am also involved in making presentations at workshops and seminars. I have developed a seminar for teachers called Natural English, which keeps me busy. Teachers here are eager to learn how to speak English correctly and I’m happy to help them.

Our lodge’s Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 9 at 1:00 p.m. at Maria’s Old Town 21 Restaurant located at 21 W. Old Street in Petersburg, Virginia. Included in the agenda will be our election of officers. For further information, contact Secretary/Treasurer Mary Zahradka at 804-732-8463.

Do příště!

Fraternally,
Tom Michalek and Janet Zahradka Reiner
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Lodge Groveton No. 4, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – As Lodge Groveton met for another monthly meeting, this time at our new venue of Rocky’s, we were greeted with an unexpected surprise. Newly crowned Miss CSA Hunter Yurkovich made a surprise appearance to discuss her experience at the Get-Together coronation in Cedar Rapids and her upcoming schedule of Queen related duties. We are very proud of Hunter, a lifelong Lodge Groveton member and a more than worthy Miss CSA.

Speaking of lifelong members, Lodge Groveton will be celebrating a very special lady’s birthday in October. Jean Placek, aka GiGi, will be turning 83 this year and she hasn’t missed a step. Jean is still very active in all Lodge Groveton activities including volunteering her time at various service projects, attending every monthly meeting as well as every Get-Together. Jean is very beloved in our Lodge, as well as across the CSA nation and we look forward to celebrating many more birthdays with her. We love you, Gigi, and wish you a very happy birthday.

Lodge Groveton still has some more activities upcoming and we are always looking for fellow CSA members to join us. We have the Penn-Ohio Bowling tournament October 12-13, a Walk for Autism on October 26 as well as our monthly meetings. For any information regarding our upcoming events, check us out via our Lodge Groveton Facebook page to get some details. Until next time, enjoy the crisp fall weather and take care.

Fraternally yours,
Bro. Gary Forrester

Lodge Sokol Plzen No. 434, Oak Brook, Illinois – On September 8, a meeting was held at Matt Bultas’ home in Brookfield, Illinois. It was a small group who got together to welcome our lodge’s newest member, Michael Leon Bultas, who was born on August 4, 2019.

With the help of Matt and Anna at the CSA Home Office, they provided the many different types of polices available for newborns. Anna went over the different benefits that each policy provided. With her help, one was chosen and Michael became a member of CSA Fraternal Life.

Pictured left is a photo of Michael with his parents, Matthew and Christina Bultas.

Fraternally,
Andrew Bultas

The Queen Has Arrived

Many Policies Available
Answer to maze on page 35.
Fall Fun

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

říjen..............................................................October (ři-jen)
duch..........................................................spirit/ghost (duch)
pověra......................................................superstition (po-vě-ra)
mít strach...........................................to be afraid (mít strach)
strašidelný...........................................spooky (stra-ši-del-ný)
čarodějníctví...........................witchcraft (ča-ro-děj-ni-ctví)
kino......................................................theater/movies (bi-o-graf)
herec/herecka.....................actor/actress (he-rec, he-rec-ka)
hruzný....................................................horrifying (hrů-zný)
tykev.................................................pumpkin/gourd (ty-kev)

Help the witch find her way to the frog.

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