



SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON D.C.

SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
WASHINGTON, D.C.

NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

www.dcslovaks.org

info@dcslovaks.org

President's Letter

This past year, 2024, has been a busy and productive year for the SASW. Our membership numbers have increased, our financial situation is sound, our charitable contributions to City University for scholarships for needy Slovak students and to the Slovak Endowment at the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) continue to grow. And we have had some interesting programs and social events, including a celebration of our 35th Anniversary on October 20. More about that celebration can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

In May, we held our 3rd annual joint SASW picnic with the Friends of Slovakia (FOS) at the Arlington Knights of Columbus facility on a gorgeous Spring Sunday afternoon. It was a great time to get together with other Slovaks for good food and fun.

In June, we donated \$5,250 to VSM/City University, which supported seven scholarships for Slovak students attending the university in Slovakia. The Slovak Endowment at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) that we created in 2022 now totals over \$20,000 and we are actively raising funds again this fall to increase that amount.

We held two programs since our last newsletter: one in May, and one in September. On May 18, Prof. M. Mark Stolarik spoke from his home in Canada via Zoom about his book titled "Immigration and Urbanization: the Slovak Experience, 1870-1918." On September 15, Robin Rigg, chairman of the Slovak Wildlife Society and a member of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe, gave a talk on "Where Wildlife and People Meet: Ecotourism and Nature Conservation in Slovakia." He spoke to us from Slovakia via Zoom. Both presentations were recorded and available to view on our [YouTube channel](#). Consider subscribing to our YouTube channel. It adds to our visibility!

This will be my last President's letter for the SASW newsletter. I am finishing my 3-year term as your President, and after serving 15 years on the SASW Board, I have decided to step down. Serving on the SASW Board and attending SASW activities has really helped me to learn so much about Slovakia – its history, its government, its culture, its food, and its people. I have met so many interesting people associated with Slovakia. Being a part of SASW has enriched my life in countless ways! Although I won't be on the Board any longer, I intend to stay involved with SASW in the future. I am a Lifetime member!

During my tenure as President, I am most proud of two endeavors. The first is "Dobru Chut!" the cookbook we compiled of recipes collected from our members. The cookbook has turned out to be very popular and a great fundraiser for scholarships for City University students. I am also proud of the Slovak Endowment initiated by SASW in 2022, specifically for Slovak exhibits, programs, and educational initiatives including the library at the NCSML in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Collaborating with Cecilia Rokusek at the NCSML has enriched both of our organizations!

Continued on next page.

President's Letter, cont.

I'd like to thank all the members of the SASW Board who supported me, offered their advice and attended monthly Board meetings. You did most of the work! I just kept us organized and moving forward. And I'd like to thank our members and friends who enhance our organization by attending our programs and activities. Through SASW, let's continue to celebrate our Slovak heritage, and Slovakia, throughout the world!

Be sure to look for information in this newsletter about the upcoming Svätý Mikuláš party on December 8 at the Slovak Embassy. I hope to see you there!

Georgene Chastain
President, SASW

The Grand Slovak Family Reunion

by Krysten Jenci

I remember when the United States established diplomatic relations with Slovakia in 1993 and Slovakia opened up its Embassy in Washington, D.C. in 1994. It was such a thrill to go to events at the Slovak Embassy sponsored by the Slovak America Society of Washington, D.C (SASW) Through SASW, I learned about Global Slovakia and a book the organization was working on called Slovak Settlers. It was so exciting to connect with other Slovak Americans who wanted to learn more about their families and connections to Slovakia.

Hearing both Zuzana Palovic and Gabriela Bereghazyova talk about the phenomenon of immigrant trauma and how hard it was for the first generation of Slovak Americans to make it in the United States was powerful—I desperately wanted to learn more about this and make more connections. I was thrilled to work with Zuzana and Gabriela on a story about my father, Michael Jenci, who was born in Sliepkovec, Slovakia in 1937, for Slovak Settlers.

This moving experience ultimately led to my father and me appearing on a podcast for Slovak Settlers and to my daughter and my father doing a podcast about Slovakia. These were like dreams coming true!



Krysten Jenci smiles with the Slovak flag and her SLA certification.

During this process, I learned more about the Slovak Living Abroad (SLA)

certificate, a semi-citizenship available to descendants of ethnic Slovaks that provides a right of residency and a simpler path to naturalization, allowing holders to live, work, establish a business, or study in Slovakia indefinitely. Curious about the opportunity, I immediately contacted a company called Polaron to learn more about the process. Jakub Smycka, Czech and Slovak Citizenship Manager at Polaron, has been exceptional from the very beginning of this process right up until the day I went to the Embassy of Slovakia to pick up my certificate.

We started the process by requesting my father's official birth certificate from the Slovak Embassy in August 2022, along with the 1930 census to prove that my family lived in Slovakia. While we waited for the birth certificate, I assembled the necessary documents on my side, including my birth certificate, my parents' marriage certificate, my marriage certificate, and a letter from SASW recommending me for the SLA.

It was very exciting to see my father's original birth certificate. He was born in a small town in Sliepkovce, Slovakia in 1937. I was so fortunate to visit his birthplace and meet some of my relatives during a trip to Slovakia in 2011..

From a cost perspective, I paid for Polaron services, some translation and apostille fees, the FBI background check, and a few other fees related to getting official copies of birth and marriage certificates. I am so grateful to Polaron for helping me every step of the way. They charged me one set fee for the entire process, which ended up taking about two years from start to finish.

I'm so excited to start the SLA process for my two children and really hope that they will go to study or work in Slovakia one day. I am so grateful to my Dad and my grandparents for making it through the difficult transition to live in this country and to create a better life for all of us. I want his tremendous sacrifices to matter and to create opportunities for his grandchildren to connect with and learn from his home country. That is my dream for my kids.

I am so grateful to the Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C., Global Slovakia, the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Uprooted Media, and Polaron for all the help and inspiration on this journey to find my family and to learn more about myself. I am looking forward to continuing on this journey to support Slovakia. I love the country and I'm so grateful that Slovakia has opened its doors to those who left the country to emigrate to the United States. Ďakujem Slovakia!

Annual Report to Membership

Membership

Our membership numbers have been steadily increasing in the last few years. As of November 2, 2024, we have 189 memberships (139 Individual, 49 Family, 24 Lifetime Individual and 4 Lifetime Family, and 8 Honorary). At last year's Annual meeting on October 28, 2023, we had 160 memberships (101 Individual, 6 Lifetime, 4 Honorary, and 59 Family). On November 5, 2022, we had 136 paid memberships (83 Individual and 53 Family).

Financial

Our financial status is stable. Our total assets as of September 30, 2024 were \$17,110.03, which includes \$318.92 designated for scholarships to deserving Slovak students at City University.

City University Scholarships

In June, we donated \$5,250 to VSM/ City University, which supported 7 scholarships for needy students in Slovakia. One of the scholarships each year is donated in memory of former founding SASW member Mr. Stephen Matula. A panel of educators at City University in Slovakia decide each year which students receive the scholarships. Both graduate and undergraduate students are considered. Your donations to the City University Scholarship Fund are much appreciated by these Slovak students.

Charitable Donations

The new SASW Slovak Endowment which was initiated in 2022 to provide funds to the National Czech and Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) in Cedar

Rapids, Iowa for the acquisition of Slovak materials and Slovak programs and exhibits, currently totals more than \$20,000, thanks to the many generous donations from SASW members and other Slovak donors. This Fall we're now asking for your help to make the endowment grow. The bigger the endowment, the more interest its funds will generate to pay for Slovak projects at NCSML.

Cookbooks Update

"Dobru Chuť!", the SASW cookbook of recipes compiled from the submissions of our members has been very popular. We are into the 2nd printing of the cookbook. Profits from the sale of the cookbooks are added to the City University Scholarship Fund. The SASW cookbook is also for sale in the gift shop of the NCSML. Profits from the sale of our cookbooks there go directly into the Slovak Endowment.

Programs

In 2024, the SASW sponsored 4 interesting programs, 2 in-person, and 2 on Zoom. Iva Kleinová, Director of Strategy, Research and Innovation Authority (VAIA), Office of the Deputy Prime Minister of Slovakia gave a presentation on "A Magnet for Talent: How Slovakia Chose to Tackle Its Brain-Drain Problem" on March 9. And genealogist Pam Pracser Anderson spoke about "Who Do I Think I Am? Finding Family in Slovakia" on Saturday, April 6, 2024. Both talks were held in-person in the meeting room at the Westover Library in Arlington, VA. They were also recorded for viewing on the SASW YouTube channel.

On May 18, Prof. M. Mark Stolarik spoke

Annual Report, cont.

from his home in Canada via Zoom about his book titled "Immigration and Urbanization: the Slovak Experience, 1870-1918." And on September 15, Robin Rigg, chairman of the Slovak Wildlife Society and a member of the Large Carnivore Initiative for Europe gave a talk on "Where Wildlife and People Meet: Ecotourism and Nature Conservation in Slovakia." He spoke to us from Slovakia via Zoom.

Social and Cultural Activities

The SASW is also interested in getting together and sharing our culture in fun ways. On Saturday, February 18, SASW members and friends gathered for food and fun at the third annual Slovak Souper Bowl. Competitors brought a pot of soup to share with attendees, who then voted for their favorite soup. Toni Rabatin was crowned the winner for her cabbage roll soup.

On May 19 the SASW joined Friends of Slovakia for their joint picnic at the Knights of Columbus facility in Arlington. Many members of both organizations attended the picnic on a beautiful day, and everyone enjoyed eating grilled chicken and bratwursts, with potluck side dishes and desserts. Special guests included Ambassador Radovan Javorčík and a few members of the Embassy staff.

During the Memorial Day weekend, a few SASW members from the Washington, DC area traveled to the Villa Sancta Anna, location of the Jankola Library in Danville, PA. Now that the buildings there are for sale, all the materials leftover from the Jednota Printery that were stored there had to be removed. This material, including

books, periodicals and old newspapers, needed to be sorted and packed up before shipping to the NCSML in Cedar Rapids, Iowa later in the summer. The volunteers worked under the direction of Steve Baluch; they found this to be dusty work, but it was also very interesting! These books and periodicals of Slovak history, many of which are unique, will be added to the archival collection at the NCSML. Steve was back in Danville in August packing the remainder of the materials with the help of another SASW member who traveled from Connecticut.

On Sunday, October 20, the SASW celebrated its 35th Anniversary with a party at the Lake House in Reston, Virginia with about 45 attendees. Current SASW President Georgene Chastain and first SASW President Tom Skladony delivered remarks. There was an abundance of Slovak food and desserts with an open bar for all to enjoy while socializing and reminiscing.

SASW member Ray Luca wrote a brief history of the organization using various materials collected over the years by Steve Matula and from old SASW newsletters, and with the help of Ken Bombara, Tom Skladony, and Kathryn Tatko. The history, a great way to preserve our first 35 years in existence, was distributed at the 35th Anniversary party.

Regular meetings of the Advanced Slovak Conversation group and the Slovak Genealogy Discussion group continue to be held via Zoom. For more information, visit our website at dcslovaks.org



NAD TATROU SA BLÝSKA

REPRESENTING SLOVAKIA AT THE 2024
WORLD LACROSSE BOX CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY GREG TEARS



The Slovak Men's National Lacrosse team competed in the 2024 World Lacrosse Box Championships which took place from September 20th-29th in Utica, New York. I had the privilege and honor of representing Slovakia as part of the team's coaching staff for the tournament. When the first notes of the Slovak national anthem played before our first game of the tournament, the sense of pride in representing the country of my heritage was overwhelming. As a Lifetime Member of the SASW and a Slovak Living Abroad, hearing the players, coaches and staff loudly and proudly sing the words of the national anthem together is something that I will never forget. There were so many amazing moments from this tournament, both on and off the field, and I wanted to share a few of those moments from this special experience with the SASW community.

Twenty-eight countries qualified for the World Championships. Coming into the tournament, Team Slovakia was ranked 13th in the world. Our goal was a top 10 finish. We were placed in Group F with Australia,



Hungary and Puerto Rico. The tournament kicked off the night before our first game with the Opening Ceremonies. The tapestry of world flags, sights and sounds filled the arena as all the various teams were introduced from across the globe and stepped onto the field together. Because lacrosse is a Native American sport, the tournament opened with a traditional prayer from the spiritual leader of the Haudenosaunee (previously known as the Iroquois Nationals) which set a solemn tone to the event. As is tradition for the Slovak team at major international tournaments, the players, coaches and staff wore traditional highlander folk hats from the Goral region when Team Slovakia walked out together with the Slovak flag.

The Slovaks began their tournament the next morning with a tough game against Australia who were considered the top team in the group going into the tournament. Despite playing the Aussies pretty even, Slovakia fell 14-11. Following that tough loss, we thought that the team needed to get away from the hotel for some much-needed team bonding



and get refocused before our next game. Since many of the players from Team Slovakia were making their first trip to the United States, we thought that it was only fitting that we take them to something truly American – a demolition derby! We had a great time that evening watching cars smash into each other on purpose (not unlike box lacrosse if you have watched a game!) and the players were able to get a little sample of Americana in upstate New York.

The excursion to the demolition derby clearly worked as the team bounced back the next day with a 15-12 win against local rival Hungary. Knowing that only a win against Puerto Rico in their final group game the following day would keep the Slovaks alive in the tournament, Slovakia had its best performance of the tournament and beat Puerto Rico 15-11 to advance to the knockout rounds.

In the first game of the knockout rounds, Slovakia encountered a familiar foe in Finland, who the Slovaks lost to by one goal in the European Championships a few years

ago in Hannover, Germany. Payback was very much on the minds of the Slovak players, but the Finns converted their chances early on their way to a comfortable 20-4 win over the Slovaks. With the loss, Slovakia was placed in the consolation bracket and defeated Mexico and Austria before falling to the U.S. Virgin Islands and China to finish in 16th place. Canada ended up winning the gold medal, the United States finished second and the Haudenosaunee won the bronze.

Off the field, the players enjoyed a taste of the United States – literally. Jersey Mike's, Chipotle and Five Guys were much preferred options to the food offered at the team dining hall and there were many fun conversations with the players about life in Slovakia and the differences in food and culture. Walmart and Bass Pro Shops were also frequent destinations between games and the team took a trip to Niagara Falls on its day off near the end of the tournament. We also spent many nights preparing and watching game film followed by countless card games and laughs. With just five of the twenty-four players on the roster being based



in North America, the trip to the United States was truly a new experience for many of the Slovak players!

Despite not achieving the goals that the team set for itself prior to the tournament, the Slovaks competed hard and represented Slovakia proudly. The team earned bragging rights in central Europe by defeating neighbors Austria and Hungary. They fought through injuries and some tough calls over the nine-day tournament and now look to build upon this result in preparation for the European Box Championships coming up in Prague in 2026. With some players retiring from international competition after the tournament's final game, the Slovaks are looking to rebuild with some new, younger faces. The Slovenska Lakrosova Federácia (SLF) will be presenting a signed jersey from the World Championships to the Slovak Embassy in Washington, DC on November 13th and hope to see it hanging in the embassy hallways very soon!

And time for my shameless plug...I currently also serve as the Director – International Recruiting for the SLF. We are actively seeking players with Slovak heritage to compete for Slovakia. If you (or someone you know) are a skilled and experienced lacrosse player and are interested in potentially representing and competing for Slovakia and you think that you (or someone you know) may have a descendant (parent, grandparent or great-grandparent) who was born in Slovak territory or held a Czechoslovak passport, the SLF would like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me via email at gtears@me.com.

Podíme na Slovensko!



CHEERS TO 35 YEARS!

SASW CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, October 20, SASW members and friends gathered at The Lake House in Reston, Virginia to celebrate the society's 35th anniversary.

President Georgene Chastain provided opening remarks, and past president Tom Skladony shared some of his favorite memories. Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed signature cocktails, noshed on homemade sweets and snacks, and perused a chronicle of SASW's history compiled by member Ray Luca.

The food was the highlight of the evening. Platters of halušky, rezeň, pirohy, holubky, and so much more—all prepared by Social Committee members Marta Szotakova Galysh, Stacey Galik, and Erika Fleegle and volunteers Danka Plevkova, Helen Fedor, Therese Fleegle, Andrea Bomar, Greg Tears, and Steve Strawn—lined the buffet tables. The Social Committee would like to extend a special thanks to Brian Hoysa for generously donating his kitchen space to assist with food preparation.

Thank you to everyone who made this event a smashing success! See the following page for some of our favorite snapshots.

Hungry for more? Some of the recipes highlighted at the party are featured in our *Dobru Chut!* Cookbook! Visit our website to place your order.



We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful fall day! The lake provided the perfect backdrop for the evening's festivities.



Current and past SASW presidents Ken Bombara, Georgene Chastain, Brian Belensky, Helen Fedor, Kathryn Tatko, and Tom Skladony posed for a group photo.



Pirohy and rezeň and halušky, oh my! Leftovers didn't last long—guests were encouraged to take extra food home to keep the party going.



During cocktail hour, guests enjoyed light bites like klobasa, homemade hručka, and obložené chlebičky.

Thank You Letters from Scholarship Recipients

SASW recently received letters of thanks from our scholarship recipients studying at City University. Read on to learn about their experiences!

Dear Members of the Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for awarding me the Slovak-American Society of Washington, D.C. Scholarship. I am truly honored to be a recipient of this generous support, which will contribute to my academic and personal growth.

As a student committed to achieving academic excellence, this scholarship will allow me to focus more fully on my studies and extracurricular activities without the worry of financial strain. Balancing a part-time job with my studies has been a challenging yet rewarding experience, teaching me valuable lessons in time management and dedication. With this scholarship, I can now dedicate more time to my academic pursuits, aiming to further improve my GPA.

My long-term goal is to leverage my education and experiences to contribute positively to my community, as well as to my friends and family, just as you have done for me through this scholarship.

Once again, thank you for your generous support. This scholarship is not just a financial aid but also a motivation to continue striving for excellence. I am truly grateful for the opportunities this scholarship will provide and the confidence you have placed in me.

Sincerely,
Lukáš Gabura

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for awarding me the Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C. scholarship. This support has provided me with a significant opportunity to focus more on my studies and has also contributed to my personal and professional development.

My name is Jakub Krištof, and I am a student at City University of Seattle. After completing my studies, I plan to continue with my football experience and try to use my knowledge that I have received from the university. This scholarship will greatly assist me in dedicating myself fully to my education and preparing for future professional challenges. While writing this letter and before the application, I have managed to land a job in smaller marketing company which has been a very good decision for me.

Once again, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your generous support. It is a great honour for me to have been selected as a recipient of this scholarship.

Sincerely,
Jakub Krištof

Thank You Letters, cont.

Dear Slovak American Society of Washington D.C,

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for the scholarship you awarded me. I feel honoured to have received a scholarship in the memory of one of the founders, Mr. Stephen Matula. After reading his biography, he really was an extraordinary man and I value his work highly. I have finished my first year of the bachelor program at VŠM and I am excited for the future! Studying business management was the best decision I could have made. I enjoy the topics thoroughly and can't wait to apply the knowledge further down in my professional career.

I have not quite decided what that career may be, though I know for a fact I want to do something business related. Whether it be a management position itself, work in the analytics department or accounting, I just know that working in the economic sphere is the right path for me.

Being from a rather lower-class background, I appreciate your help tremendously. I have decided to use the money received to improve my skillset for the future. I plan to enroll in an accounting course, that upon completion, will grant me an accounting certificate. While studying accounting at VŠM, I have become deeply interested in the subject and the course will open exciting doors for further development of my knowledge. Apart from using the funds to pay for the course, the scholarship also acts as a great motivator for my future studies. Having received the scholarship, I feel appreciated for the hard-work I've put in and feel motivated to stay on track in the upcoming years as well. I don't know what the future will hold for me, but I am looking forward to it!

To conclude this letter, I have nothing else to say than a huge and sincere THANK YOU. You have changed my life for the better.

Sincerely,
Tibor Hamara



SASW Elects Board Members for 2025

At the annual meeting on November 2, SASW elected Greg Tears and Chris Sedlock to the board. From left, board members include Marta Szotakova Galysh, Brian Belensky, Chris Sedlock, Erika Fleegle, Mary Frances Zelenak, Helen Fedor, Greg Tears, Marlene Yencho, and Andrea Bomar.

Thank You Letters, cont.

To whom it may concern

My name is Alexandra Vargová and I have been studying at VŠM/CU for 5 years now. There is one last year ahead of me to finish my studies and my cumulative GPA is 3.34.

As I wrote in my letter of request for SAWS Scholarship, my workplace had been cancelled as of July 31st and that was the reason why it became a heavy financial burden for me. Thank to your organization and support you provide to excellent students who have financial difficulties I was able to pay the school fee and continue in my last year of studies. I can't express in words how much I appreciate and how much thankful I am for your support as it has always been my goal to get a university education which would help me to have a chance for better employment on the labor market. I would like to focus on Human Resources as I already have some experience in that area, and I would like to extend my knowledge also through VŠM education.

I believe, my career, thanks to the successful completion of my studies and thanks to support from your organization, will get the right direction.

Kind regards,
Alexandra Vargová

Dear Members of the Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C.,

I want to sincerely thank you for awarding me the Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C. scholarship for the academic year 2024/2025. Your continued support means so much to me, especially as I work to balance my studies with my professional responsibilities. Since last year, I've been promoted to Operations Manager, and now I oversee 13 team members across different locations, including Split, Barcelona, Bratislava, and Athens. I'm also responsible for managing over 26,000 yacht profiles on our website. This new role is exciting and the opportunity to grow talents is what I have always wished for. I have to admit, though, it's also quite overwhelming, and I find myself hoping that my upcoming university subjects will be ones I can pass more easily and that feel more natural to me.

As I get closer to finishing my master's degree at Vysoká škola manažmentu, I'm starting to think about my next steps. My dream is to move to the United States to continue my career and support my family, but I might need to stay within Europe for now. Regardless of where I end up, this scholarship helps me stay focused on my studies while managing everything else.

I'm truly grateful for your belief in me. Your support has made a big difference in my life, and I hope to one day give back to others in the same way. Thank you again for this incredible opportunity.

With sincere appreciation and best wishes,
Nino Potisk

Thank You Letters, cont.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for being awarded the Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C. scholarship. It is an incredible honor to be selected as a recipient, and it means so much to me and my family.

Receiving this scholarship significantly enhances my ability to afford higher education, allowing me to focus more on my studies and less on financial concerns as I embark on the journey of attaining an Mgr./MBA degree. Moreover, it strengthens my belief that hard work leads to meaningful achievements and motivates me to pursue academic excellence throughout my upcoming studies.

While my education remains my highest priority, I plan to continue working part-time in the business environment to gain more experience and support the theoretical concepts I learn in classes with practical insights from the field. In the future, I aspire to build a career in project management, as I am passionate about and highly interested in this field.

Once again, thank you very much for awarding me this scholarship and supporting me in fulfilling my educational goals and career aspirations. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and am determined to make the most of it.

Yours faithfully,
Michaela Matejková

SASW Slovak Endowment Fundraiser

Our fall fundraiser for the SASW Slovak Endowment has collected over \$1,800 toward our \$3,000 goal! A big *Ďakujeme!* to those who've donated. The fundraiser has been extended to December 8, the day of our Sv. Mikuláš party, so please help us reach, and even exceed, our goal. You can donate electronically at www.paypal.me/dcslovaks (note "Donation for Slovak Endowment" in the memo field), or you can donate by check (write "Donation for Slovak Endowment" on the memo line) and send it to the address below:

Slovak American Society of Washington D.C.
P.O. Box 2502
Springfield Virginia 22152-2502

Thank You Letters, cont.

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I would like to express my genuine gratitude for receiving one of the scholarships from The Slovak-American Society of Washington, DC (SASW) in total amount of 675 Eur. This scholarship will help me continue my studies as planned and I am very pleased about it.

My motivation for study and education is high, despite the circumstances of trying to juggle between being a full-time mother of one year old twins, and studying for better future opportunities and a great career.

Last year has not been financially easy for me, as being on a maternity leave and providing needs for my children comes with high costs. The respected scholarship will definitely make it easier for me, and help to cover some of the study costs. My enthusiasm for study and enquiring new knowledge has always been one of my priorities for a better future, and I always put a lot of effort and time to my studies to make sure I receive the best possible grades. As a student at City University of Seattle, I received the Dean's List for my excellent academic performance three times in a row. Receiving the scholarship make me feel very proud and motivates me to try and continue to keep this great standard. My current GPA is 3.87.

Once again, I would like to thank you for the scholarship towards my study. Without your support I would have had to pause or stop my study. The scholarship helped me immensely.

I appreciate your help and support.

Sincerely,

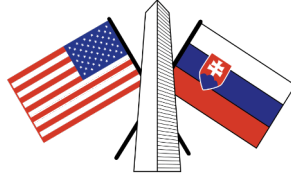
Lenka Gröger

Save the Date! Annual Svätý Mikuláš Party Taking Place December 8

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Join SASW as we celebrate the season with our annual Svätý Mikuláš party on Sunday, December 8.

Those attending with small children should bring one small gift per child (wrapped and clearly labelled with the child's name) for your child to receive from Svätý Mikuláš. Drop off gifts at the front table, as you enter. Please encourage your child to learn a short poem or song, in Slovak or English, or bring a completed drawing, to present to Svätý Mikuláš, as is the Slovak custom.

To reserve your spot at this event, we are accepting prepaid reservations until we reach full capacity. Please fill out and send in the form at the back of this newsletter, and either include a check for the amount, or send an electronic payment via PayPal.



SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON D.C.

SV. MIKULÁŠ PARTY PREPAID RESERVATION FORM

Member reservation(s) _____ x \$ 35 _____

Non-Member reservation(s) _____ x \$ 45 _____ **Children 12 and under are free.**

Total Amount Enclosed for Sv. Mikuláš Reservations _____ (Make check payable to 'SASW')

Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Names of Attendees (please specify adult or child):

Send reservation form and check payable to 'SASW' to:

SASW

P.O. Box 2502

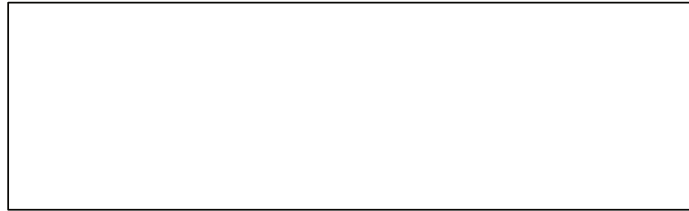
Springfield, VA 22152-2502



SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON D.C.

P.O. Box 2502

Springfield, VA 22152-2502



**SLOVAK AMERICAN SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, D.C.
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION / DONATION FORM**

New membership or 2025 renewal runs through 12/31/2025.

Contributions and memberships are tax deductible.

Individual membership (\$25/year) \$ _____

Family membership (\$35/year) \$ _____

Individual Lifetime membership
under 65 (\$250) \$ _____

Individual Lifetime membership
over 65 (\$150) \$ _____

Family Lifetime membership
(\$400) \$ _____

Tax-deductible donation (optional):

City University Scholarship Fund \$ _____

SASW General Fund \$ _____

NCSML Endowment \$ _____

Mail your check (made out to the Slovak American Society of Washington, D.C.) and this form to:

**SASW Membership
P.O. Box 2502
Springfield, VA 22152-2502**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP + 4 _____

TELEPHONE
(_____) _____

EMAIL
