December, 2018

American Sokol

Sokol KHB – Ennis

PROUDLY SERVING THE ENNIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1908

Donations and news worthy items to support the Sokol KHB Newsletter should be sent to Sokol KHB Newsletter, P.O. Box 205, Ennis, TX 75120

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from David, Michelle, Josef & Isabella Slovak	**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM DAVID & DIANE LISKA**
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from The Mike & Nannette LiskA Family	**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND BEST WISHES FOR A SAFE, HEALTHY, AND HAPPY NEW YEAR from THOMAS BETIK FAMILY**
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from The Elleven Family	**DECK THEM HALLS, Y'ALL from THE SOKOL KHB ADULT CLASS ADELL, DOROTHY, GEORGIE, LIZ JAN & CHUCK**

MAY EVERYONE HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!! FROM BENNY & LAURA TROJACEK	VESELÉ VÁNOCE FROM BENNY & LAURA TROJACEK & FAMILY
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE SOKOL KHB OFFICERS AND MEMBERS	MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM RANDY AND DEBBIE OWENS
MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM BEN TRICKETT	WISHING ALL THE BEST AT CHRISTMAS & IN THE NEW YEAR FROM SANDRA RAYFORD

Adults Christmas Party
Wednesday December 19th:
7:00 – 11:00 PM
Clubroom

- Doors open at 5:00pm
- Bring a snack or side dish if you wish
- Christmas Carol Sing-a-long

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Sokol Clubroom open Mondays & Wednesdays 5PM – Close

Sokol Museum – open for special events and by appointment

Dec 19 2018 Clubroom Christmas Party 6:00pm
Dec 31 2018 New Year's Eve with The Moravians Polka Band 8-midnight – Hall

December, 2018

Dues Are Due!

We recently mailed the 2019 dues invoices to our members and they are due by December 31, 2018.

It's important we keep good records and we are asking your help. Everyone, including Lifetime and Honorary Life members, received a Response Form and self-addressed envelope. If there are any errors on your invoice, please make the corrections on the Response Form and mail them to us, call me at 972-921-1932 or email me at Dues@sokolennis.com.

Ray Elleven – Financial Secretary

Mail Box Goof Up

If you recently mailed something to our mail box and it came back undeliverable or mail box closed, please re-mail it. We did not close our mail box. There was a goof up at the post office that has been fixed. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Ray Elleven – Financial Secretary

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Get Ready for Cheerleader Tryouts

Sokol will be having Cheer Training Sessions

Starting in January For Junior High & High School ages

Led by Sara Jakubik & Madeline Makovy

Watch for details by Christmas:

- **On Facebook: Sokol Ennis**
- **Email: fitness@sokolennis.com**
- **Text: 254-717-9877**

Learn sideline chants & cheers with focus on voice projection, motion technique; jump combinations; arm placement; short dance routines.

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December, 2018

Czech Christmas Traditions

Most reading this, will consider reading about Czech Christmas Traditions, old school. As a "non" Czech, I find it educational, and pray that I am getting it right. Over the next year, I will be offering articles of interests that I find and I welcome any history or story you would like to share. Please get them to me.

I have heard first hand many stories about the grand feast celebrated on Christmas Eve. I did find the featured dish, CARP, unusual. It was either fried or made into soup. The carp was purchased earlier, and could be kept alive in the bathtub until ready for cooking. I've bathed my dogs in the bathtub, but I have never kept a carp alive in my bathtub. Nor have I eaten carp on Christmas Eve, or any other time that I know of. Christmas Eve may culminate with midnight mass, or the family may go to mass on Christmas Day, and then enjoy the noon meal together.

The tree is decorated on Christmas Eve. Traditionally the tree was decorated with apples and sweets as well as traditional decorations.

Baby Jesus (Jezisek) is the gift giver and brings children gifts on Christmas Eve. The children leave the room until they hear the tinkle of a bell indicating that Jezisek has delivered the gifts. The Baby Jesus is said to reside high in the mountains in the town of Bozi Dar, where a post office accepts and stamps letters addressed to him. St. Mikulas brings gifts at the beginning of December on St. Mikulas Day. He is dressed as a Bishop in white clothing rather than in a red Santa suit.

A common holiday superstition is that food and household can foretell the future of the coming year. By cutting an apple in half, inspecting the inside core, if it reveals four corners, bad luck is on your way. A five corner core translates to good fortune ahead. For young women that are hoping for love, tossing a shoe over a shoulder at the nearest door is a tradition. If the shoe points at the door, then marriage is in the cards.

In Prague, the Christmas tree in Old Town draws thousands each year. The public square is the site of the city's most famous Prague Christmas Market with stalls selling local treats, gift options, and decorations. One can also enjoy the live nativity scenes, ice skating, and other Czech Christmas traditions throughout December.

A few hours from Prague awaits the castle, Cesky Krumlow. The best-known residents are a quartet of furry friends that are the centerpiece of the castle's Christmas with the Bears event. I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to go there…….and yes, see the bears, just not at Christmas. In town, you will encounter carolers, an Advent photo studio, and even a wintertime cruise down the river.

The South Bohemian city of Ceske Budejovice (one of my favorite places in Czech Republic) is known for its musical entertainment. Buglers, pipers and folklore groups entertain the crowds in Premysl Otaka II Square and provide a melodic background to the annual Christmas market.

I wish each of you a Veselé Vánoce. May the season bring you joy!

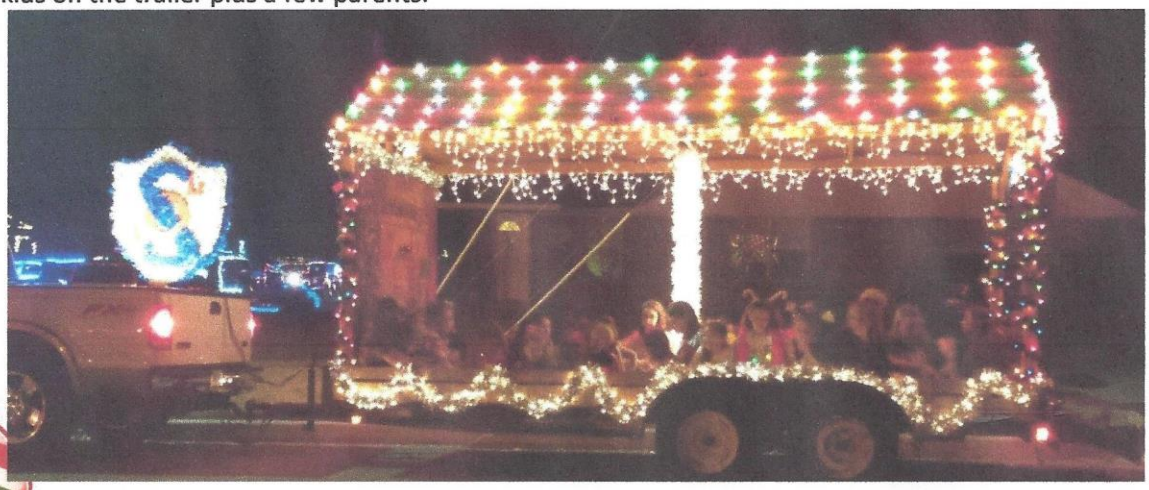
Sandy Rayford

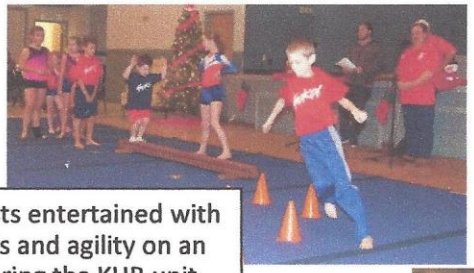
December, 2018

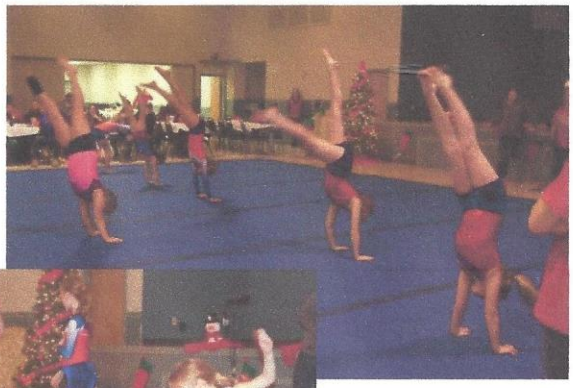
GYMNASTICS REPORT

Eleven of our young gymnasts under the leadership of Coach Kristine Betik performed a tumbling exhibition during the Ennis Autumn Daze Festival October 27.

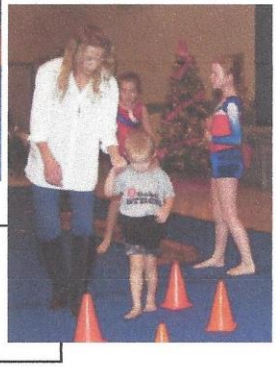
Special thanks to Alan and Stacey Bohanon, Joanna Wilson, and Ksenia Marek for creating our Sokol KHB parade float for the Ennis Parade of Lights. The kids had a great time riding in the parade and caroling all the way. There were at least 40 kids on the trailer plus a few parents.







Our young gymnasts entertained with their tumbling skills and agility on an obstacle course during the KHB unit Christmas party December 2.



Our youngest gymnast, Brantley, needed a little coaxing from grandma.

December, 2018

ELECTIONS FROM THE 2018 Sokol KHB Annual Meeting

2018-2019 Administration

Executive Board:
Thomas Betik (Chair), Benny Trojacek, Randy Owen, Laura Trojacek, Ray Elleven, Liz Krajca, David Slovak, Michelle Slovak, Sandy Rayford

Unit Officers:
President – Thomas Betik
Vice-President – Benny Trojacek
Second Vice-President – Randy Owen
Secretary – Laura Trojacek
Financial Secretary – Ray Elleven
Treasurer – Ray Elleven
Physical Director – Liz Krajca
Educational Director – Sandy Rayford
Membership Director – David Slovak
Public Relations Director / Webmaster – Michelle Slovak
Editor of Publication – Chuck Kalat
Auditing / Budget & Finance – Deanna Betik (Chair), Mike Liska, Elaine Kasowski
Constitution & Bylaws – Open
Property (Board of Trustees) / Club Board - Thomas Betik (Chair), Benny Trojacek, Laura Trojacek, Ray Elleven, Charles Walker, Randy Owen, Ben Trickett, Mayfair Mullican, David Slovak, Rusty Liska, Brandon Smith, Mike Liska, Sandy Rayford
Reconciliation – John Marek (Chair), Brian Zhanel, Chris Gilburt
Ways & Means (Fundraising) – Michelle Slovak (Chair), Lori Macalik, Benny Trojacek, David Slovak, Sandy Rayford, Christine Betik, Laura Trojacek
Southern District Delegates – David Slovak (Lead), Thomas Betik, Ray Elleven
Nat'l Polka Fest Delegates – Lori Macalik (Lead), David Liska, Diane Liska
American Czech Culture Society Delegates – Keith Kapavik (lead), John Marek, Jean Beebe,
Swimming Pool – Open
Museum & Library Curator – Georgie Morales
Board of Instructors Treasurer – Judi Tabb

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FYI - Per the 2018 annual meeting, our annual meetings will now take place the first Saturday of December each year along with the Annual Christmas Party & Annual Exhibition & Member Awards Ceremony. Please mark your calendars for Dec 7, 2019 (time TBD) for this big all-day member event.

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BEST WISHES FOR A

JOYFUL, HAPPY, MERRY, BLESSED, & SAFE

HOLIDAY SEASON!

New Year's Eve Party!

December 31, 2018
8PM – 12AM

Sokol Activity Center
2622 E Hwy 34 - Ennis, TX 75119

The Moravians Polka Band

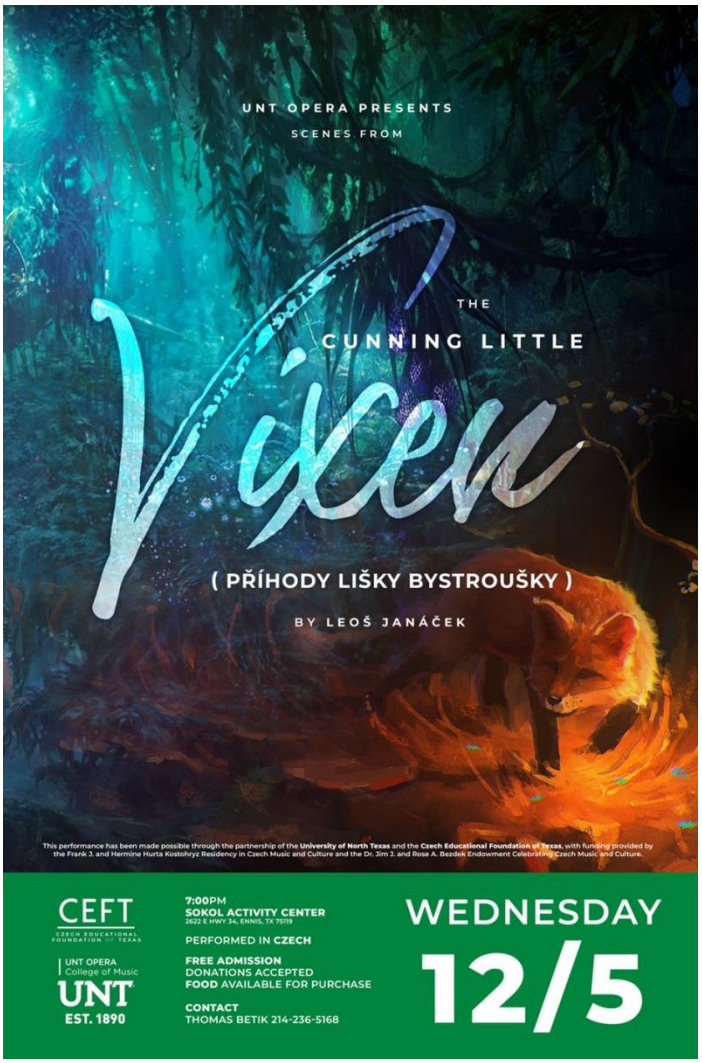
$8 per person; $15 per couple
Black-eyed peas and cornbread available at midnight

972-875-7959 www.sokolennis.com

December, 2018

UNT College of Music presents the delightful Czech opera, "The Cunning Little Vixen" -- performed in Czech

Wednesday, December 5th – 7:00 PM - Sokol Activity Center – FREE ADMISSION



What: The University of North Texas College of Music presents scenes from the Czech opera "The Cunning Little Vixen," performed in Czech.

More information: For the Czech music festival website, visithttps://czech.music.unt.edu/home. Connect with the College of Music on Facebook at Facebook.com/UNTCollegeofMusic and on Twitter at @UNTCoM.

Background: Leoš Janáček composed "The Cunning Little Vixen" in 1924.

"This is one of the most delightful operas ever written - a charming, funny, touching story about love and life cycles, based on a popular Czech cartoon series - a sort of 'Charlie Brown' of Czech opera," said Jonathan Eaton, UNT College of Music Margot and Bill Winspear Chair in Opera Studies.

The opera charts the adventures of a charming, feisty, cunning little vixen and contrasts the fierce vitality and exuberance of the animal world with the human world. It's a perfect evening for newcomers to opera and cognoscenti alike.

About the UNT College of Music

The College of Music is one of the nation's largest and most respected comprehensive music schools. It offers fully accredited degrees from the bachelor to doctoral levels and is home to the world's first jazz studies degree program. Faculty include internationally acclaimed artists and scholars in composition, conducting, ethnomusicology, music education, music entrepreneurship, music history, music theory, performance and performance and performing arts health. The college presents more than 1,100 concerts and recitals annually. UNT music alumni can be found around the globe in impressive, award-winning careers across a wide-range of music professions. Visit the College of Music online calendar at http://music.unt.edu/calendar and connect with the College of Music on Facebook at Facebook.com/UNTCollegeofMusic, and on Twitter at @UNTCoM

Christmas around the world

(Joyeux Noël) FRANCE

Père Noël is accompanied by **Père Fouettard**, who brings presents only to good kids. Children put their shoes by the fire place to get gifts. People have dinner at midnight on December 24 (le Réveillon) with a cake called La Bûche de Noël.

(Vrolijk Kerstfeest) BELGIUM

Belgian children believe that **Saint Nicholas** brings them their presents. They also believe he rides a horse so they leave hay and carrots and water for the horse just outside the house on December 6.

(Vrolijk kerstfeest) THE NETHERLANDS

Sinterklaas rides a horse. Dutch children leave their shoes out, filled with hay and sugar for his horse. In the morning they find their shoes filled with candy, nuts and gifts. When **Sinterklaas** appears to children, he takes the form of their father or a male relative.

(Frohe Weihnachten) GERMANY

Children count the days until Christmas with an **Advent calendar**. They also write letters to **St. Nicholas** asking for presents (December 6). Christmas Eve is the most important time of the Christmas season for families. Some even say it is a magical night when animals can speak. The wonderful tradition of the Christmas tree, which started in Germany, is the heart of the celebration.

(Gleædelig Jul) DENMARK

Danish people celebrate Christmas Eve with a special rice pudding in which a single almond is hidden. Whoever finds the almond will have good luck for the coming year. **Julemanden** arrives in a sleigh drawn by reindeer and a sack over his back. He is assisted with his Yuletide chores by Elves called **Juul Nisse**, who live in attics.

(God Jul) SWEDEN

Most people in Scandinavian countries honour **St. Lucia** on December 13. Traditionally, the eldest daughter in each family gets up early and wakes each of her family members, dressed in a long, white gown with a red ribbon and a crown made of twigs with nine lighted candles. **Jultomten,** visits houses in the afternoon on Christmas Eve.

(С рождеством) RUSSIA

Families decorate a New Year's tree and make Salad Olivier (diced meat, veggies and potatoes all slathered in Mayo). **Grandfather Frost** (Дед Моро́з) delivers presents to good children, aided by The **Snow Maiden** (Снегу́рочка).

(Buon Natale) ITALY

Italian people exchange gifts on January 6, when the **Wise Men** or **Magi** reached baby Jesus. Italy has **La Befana**, who brings gifts for good children and punishment for the bad ones. The nativity scene dates back to Saint Francis of Assisi.

(Feliz Navidad) SPAIN

Spanish people celebrate *Nochebuena* (Christmas Eve), and families gather together to share a meal. Children leave their shoes filled with straw and barley for the camels of the **Wise Men** who visit them on January 6.

(Merry Christmas) UK

The tradition of hanging stockings by the chimney began here because **Father Christmas** accidentally dropped some gold coins on his way down the chimney which got caught in a drying stocking. British children wait until the afternoon to open their gifts.

Boxing Day is celebrated the day following Christmas, when small gifts were given to servants.

(Merry Christmas) CANADA / U.S.A.

People decorate Christmas trees and hang their stockings by the fireplace because children believe that **Santa Claus** will fill them with gifts. People also exchange cards and gifts and go carolling.

(Feliz Navidad) MEXICO

They celebrate Christmas for nine days with **Las Pastorelas**. People dress as Mary and Joseph walking from house to house asking if Mary may stay the night. Then, they are invited in for a party with food, songs, and a *Piñata* filled with all kinds of sweets.

(圣诞快乐) CHINA

Christian kids decorate their houses with beautiful paper lanterns. Many Chinese children also hang stockings and wait for Santa Claus or **Dun Che Lao Ren**, which means "Christmas Old Man."

(メリークリスマス) JAPAN

In Japan there is a god or priest known as **Hoteiosho**, who closely resembles our Santa Claus. He is always pictured as a kind old man carrying a huge pack. He is thought to have eyes in the back of his head. Children must be good when this all-seeing gentleman is abroad.

(Merry Christmas) AUSTRALIA

Santa's sleigh is pulled by eight white kangaroos. Christmas dinner is eaten outdoors and is followed by a visit to the beach or a game of cricket.

iSLCollective.com

December, 2018

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Sokol KHB – Ennis

PROUDLY SERVING THE ENNIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1908

"The mission of the American Sokol is to provide fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural, and social programs."

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM SOKOL KAREL HAVLICEK BOROVSKY

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