



Project Graduation
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Adopt a Street for JHD Page 24

## On the Cover

In honor of Flag Day, June 14, this issue features the United States flag on the cover and information on its origin on page 16.



## Sokol Egg Hunt Page 26

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## President's Piece

## Awaiting Regulatory Approval

Brothers and Sisters,

Hello to all, and welcome to summer! As the month begins, we're only two months away from CSA Fraternal Life's 88th Annual Get-Together, which will be in Cleveland, Ohio on August 1-3, 2025. See details starting on page 10 of this issue.

I know that the GTG Committee has been hard at work putting together what will be a great event. As always, we'll have a handful of meals together, a choice of outings to attend, a volunteer event, and, of course, we'll be crowning our National Miss CSA as well as introducing our Fraternalist of the Year. Applications for Miss CSA and nominations for Fraternalist of the Year are due soon! Visit CSAlife.com for details.

From a "work" standpoint, much of our attention here at the Home Office has been related to the upcoming

merger with BetterLife. In addition to the day-to-day work, our staff has begun coordinating with BetterLife future co-workers to begin the integration our of two societies. As I've communicated previously, with our CSA Delegates approving the merger, the only thing that remains is regulatoapproval from Insurance Departments across the land. We expect this to occur in the months ahead, with closing for the merger planned for later this year. I know that the CSA/BetterLife combination will prove to be fruitful for both organizations and we look forward to the future.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to us if anything arises. We're happy to hear from you.

I look forward to continuing to pass along the news of CSA in the months ahead and hope to see you at the Get-Together!



John J. Kielczewski CLU, FLMI, President

Until next month...

Fraternally, John J. Kielczewski, CLU, FLMI President/CEO CSA Fraternal Life



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

June 6, 2025 – DEADLINE Miss CSA Application and Photos

June 8, 2025 Remembering Lidice

Lidice Memorial Crest Hill, Illinois 11:00 a.m. See page 19 for details

June 14

**Farewell Fundraiser for Omladina Dancers** 

UMS Clubhouse, Glendale Heights, Illinois 5 - 10 p.m., Free See page 18 for details

June 27, 2025 – DEADLINE Fraternalist of the Year Nomination

July 2, 2025 – DEADLINE Kropik Scholarship Application

July 2, 2025 – DEADLINE Recipient Information Form for CSA Scholarship

July 4, 2025 Home Office Closed for 4th of July

August 1 - 3, 2025 CSA Fraternal Life's 88th Annual Get-Together Cleveland, Ohio See page 10 for details

September 1, 2025 Home Office Closed for Labor Day

September 26, 2025 – DEADLINE Photo Contest Entries

September 26, 2025 - DEADLINE Bowl-O-Rama Entries

### Journal Themes for 2025

July/August – Czech and Slovak Festivals

**September** – Recap of the Annual Get-Together

October – Photo Contest Winners

**November** – Honoring Those Who Have Served and Bowl-o-Rama

**December** – Lodge Recognition Program

All articles are due on the 13th of the month **prior** to the publication date.

# CSA Journal Volume 138 No. 6 June 2025



#### A Dynamic Magazine "Dedicated to Our Membership"

ŮŘEDNÍ ORGÁN JEDNOTY CESKOSLOVENSKÝCH SPOLKŮ V AMERICE

Phone: 800-543-3272
FAX: 630-472-1100
Email CSA: fraternaldept@csalife.com
Website: www.csalife.com
Editor: Cynthia Hall, CSAJournalEditor@gmail.com

### CSA MISSION STATEMENT

CSA Fraternal Life is a fraternal benefit Society that provides families with financial security while promoting community involvement with volunteerism.

## CSA Leadership

### **National Officers**

John J. Kielczewski, President Nick Kosmas, Secretary/Treasurer

### **National Directors**

Tom Ledvina

Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota

#### Ken Dvorsky and Cary Mentzer

Northern Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin

### Irma Farrell

California, Colorado, Kansas, and Texas

#### **Diane DiBianca**

Northern Ohio and Michigan

### **Connie Wolf**

Missouri and Southern Illinois

### **Terry Placek**

Southeastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania

### **Carol Tranter**

Florida, Maryland, Virginia, D.C., Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey

### **Paul Vavrasek**

New York State and Connecticut

### **Home Office Hours**

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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CSA Journal, P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148.

## Today's Fraternal

## May Was a Busy Month

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters,

May was a busy month. I kicked things off by attending the AFA Symposium in Cleveland, Ohio. It was an inspiring event filled with insightful speakers and plenty of positive stories about what other fraternal organizations are doing nationwide.

One highlight was hearing from Angel Thomas with BetterLife. She spoke beautifully about how she engages with her member groups and events. It was clear she truly loves what she does—and it shows. I'm looking forward to our lodge's opportunity to meet and connect with her.

Molly and I have met regularly with the BetterLife fraternal team for several weeks. They're an incredible group of people who genuinely care about their members, and we're thrilled to be working alongside them. Our members will be just as excited to be part of this growing connection!

After attending the Symposium, I had the pleasure of joining Lodge Cermak No. 099 for their meeting. Thank you to the lodge for the kind invitation—this is always an engaging and enjoyable meeting. We had meaningful discussions about the merger, the upcoming Get-

Together, and a variety of other topics. Connecting with Lodge Cermak and seeing their excellent work is always a pleasure. See photo below.

I also had the opportunity to attend the Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409 meeting. During this gathering, we packed bags filled with personal care items to be donated to the Elgin Crisis Center, a local organization that assists people in crisis. Thank you to the lodge for all the generous donations—I'm sure those in need will deeply appreciate them. It was wonderful to see members coming together to positively impact the community.

Summer is here, so it's time for our much-anticipated Get-Together! We're looking forward to a fun and engaging event. While you're there, you'll have the chance to meet Chris Campbell and Angel Thomas from BetterLife. They're both fantastic individuals who bring so much energy and heart to the fraternal world—I know you'll enjoy connecting with them.

I hope to see everyone at the Get-Together!

As we enter the summer season, I wish all the dads a Happy Father's Day! I hope everyone has a safe, relaxing, and



joyful summer ahead!

Fraternally, Kelly Deegan Fraternal Programs Manager Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409

### Please send lodge articles to:

csajournaleditor@gmail.com
by the 13th of the month prior.
(You will receive a
confirmation email.)
Please address all
Fraternal inquiries to:
Kelly Deegan at

kdeegan@csalife.com 1.800.543.3272 x 4307



## Board Report May 9, 2025

The Board of Directors of CSA Fraternal Life met for our quarterly meeting and all the members were present.

The final date for the formal merger with BetterLife has not been set since it must be approved by all the states where each fraternal does business.

There are going to be changes at CSA with the merger but be assured that the lodges will still have their identity and retain any funds they now hold.

Allocations will still be made to the lodges to continue their activities. We will now have more brothers and sisters to share the Fraternal experience with.

It was recommended that Terry Placek be the CSA Fraternal Life representative on the Board of Directors of BetterLife. The other members of this current Board will be on an advisory committee to BetterLife.

We are looking forward to the Get-Together in Cleveland. There are lots of exciting things planned including the Miss CSA Contest.

If you have any questions, please contact your Director.

Fraternally, Irma Drahota Farrell Chair



### MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

## FLAG DAY

*Greetings, brothers and sisters,* 

I hope you and your families had a lovely Memorial Day holiday weekend. Lisa and I celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary.

This month's *Journal* theme is Flag Day.

What is Flag Day?

Flag Day is observed on June 14 in the United States to commemorate the adoption of the Stars and Stripes as the nation's official flag by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation designation.

nating June 14 as Flag Day. On August 3, 1949, National Flag Day was officially established by an Act of Congress. Although not an official federal holiday, many Americans honor Flag Day by displaying their flag and participating in various events to honor this great country's heritage. The United States Army also celebrates its birthday on this date. This year, the US Army is 250 years old.

I attended the Lodge No. 409 meeting this past month and assisted in assembling personal care items, which we dropped off at the Elgin Women's Center.

Lisa and I are looking forward to the Get-Together in Cleveland in a few

weeks and hope to see many of you there!

This past month, several members of the Home Office Staff attended the American Fraternal Alliance (AFA) Spring Symposium in Cleveland. It was an informative event that will improve our Society. We also met up with a couple of the BetterLife staff who attended. We had a lovely dinner together and got to know each other better.

I hope all dads have a great Father's Day with their families.

Fraternally, Nick V. Kosmas Secretary / Treasurer



## Miss National CSA

## Kroj Debut

Greetings, brothers and sisters,

This month, I finished up my sophomore year of college! I received a 4.0 this semester and got on the Dean's List, which is very exciting!

This month has been a very busy one! I went to St. Louis for a Czech Festival and I had a really great time! I met the Miss Czech-Slovak U.S. and the runner up for the same contest. Both girls were so friendly and kind. I had a blast talking to them both!

I was also able to debut my kroj at this event! My grandma's work got so many compliments and I felt so close to my culture while I was wearing it! You can see from the picture, there were so many beautiful kroje at this event! I think my favorite part was getting to hear the story behind everyone's outfit!

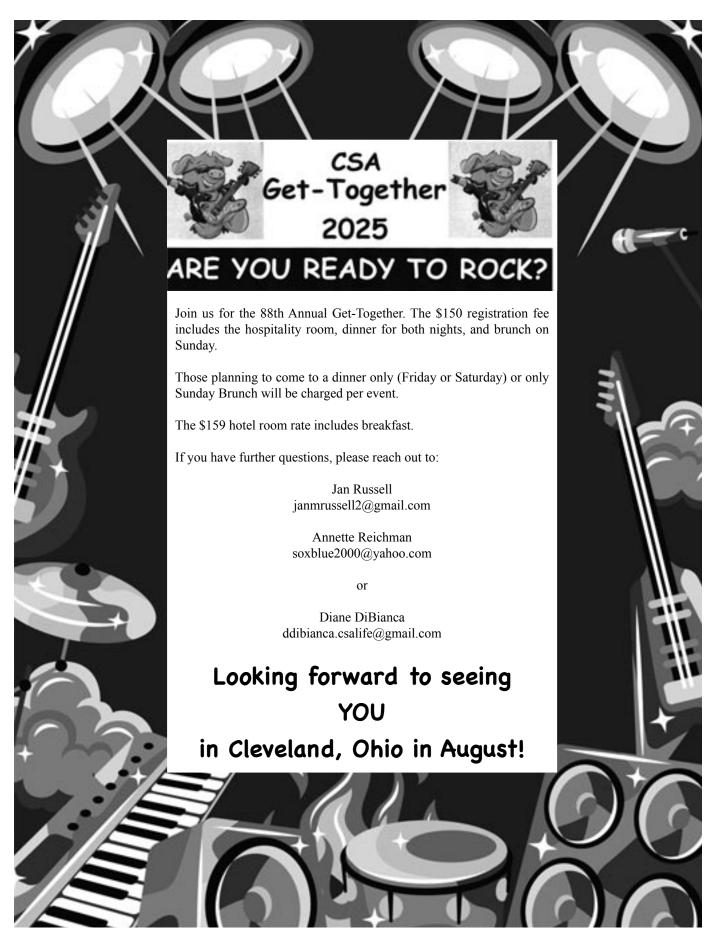
I'm back home for the summer, but still as busy as ever! I have an internship at an acai bowl shop, where I am doing marketing and social media as well as some more boring tasks, like inventory and scheduling. I've been having a great time and learning so much!

I am also taking a summer class, Digital Media Planning and Operations. While I love learning about the content in this course, summer classes can be so much work! Since it is a full semester worth of content condensed into a few weeks, it has been taking up most of my free time. The lecture videos tend to be over an hour long, on top of the multiple readings and activities assigned per week. A light week has three lecture videos and a crazy week has seven... Wish me luck!

Until next time, Delaney Schretter









## 2025 CSA FRATERNAL LIFE

## **GET-TOGETHER**

## REGISTRATION FORM

CSA Get-Together c/o Diane DiBianca 213 Best St Bedford, OH 44146 PLEASE FILL OUT AND POSTMARK BY JUNE 1ST, 2025 TO:

PHONE: 216-392-9074

EMAIL: ddibianca.csalife@gmail.com

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

### **DISTRICT COUNCIL #10 CSA**

( Please write "Get-Together Registration" in the notes on payment form.)

	PLEAS	SE PRINT BELOW:
	One	e form per guest
NAME:		LODGE (if applicable)
CITY, STATE, ZIP:		
PHONE:		EMAIL::
IS THIS YOUR FIRST	CSA GET-TOGE	THER?
WHAT IS YOUR FAVO	DRITE ROCK SO	NG?
		ALL THAT APPLY:
MEMBER (\$150)		GUEST (\$150)
		18 (\$125) YOUTH AGE:
DINNER ONLY FRIDA	Y (\$30) S	AT. (\$60) SUNDAY (\$60)
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ROCK HALL MUSEUM (\$30)		AGES 6 -12 (\$20)
300D TIME III LUNCH	CRUISE (\$55)	AGES 5 -12 (\$45)
TOTAL (\$)	PAID:	CHECK #
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DRIVING	FLYING	OTHER



# CSA Get-Together 2025



## ARE YOU READY TO ROCK?





AUGUST 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
Cleveland Downtown
1111 Lakeside Ave.E
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Room rates start at \$159/night +tax, includes breakfast.

Parking available in the attached garage for \$30/day.

(Some free meter/street parking available Sat. & Sun)

BOOK YOUR ROOM: Call 1-800-445-8667 code CSA

link: https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/clelsdt-

csa-Odd1e9fc-a165-47c5-a792-fd305fa8be61/



### 88th Annual

### **Get-Together**

### Service Project



### Journey Center for Safety and Healing

Our Project this year is to work with Journey Center to gather non-perishable items from their Wish List. In addition to the items listed, you can go to their Amazon wish list

### DONATION WISH LIST

Gift cards: Target, Walmart, Giant Eagle, Home Depot, Costco, Michaels, fast food, restaurant & Visa

### Used cell phones

### Baby Items

- Baby Wipes
- Baby Crib Sheets (new)
- Pack-n-play Sheets
- Diapers size 4, 5, & 6
- Pull-ups all sizes
- Baby Shampoo
- Baby Lotion
- Baby Body Wash
- Diaper Bags
- Sippy Cups (new)
- Bibs (new)

### Cleaning Supplies

- Dish Soap
- Hand Soap Dispensers
- Clorox Cleaning Wipes
- Laundry Detergent

### Household Items (New)

- Bowls
- Cups
- Forks, spoons, knives
- Glasses (no coffee mugs)
- Plates
- Pots/pans
- Tote bags (large)

### **Toiletries**

- Kleenex
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Tissue

### Personal Care Items

- Body Lotion
- Body Soap
- Brushes Hard bristle
- Deodorant
- Towels & Wash Cloths (new)
- Specific Diverse Hair Products:
  - Instant Control Edge & Braid Gel Max
  - Creme of Nature shampoo, conditioner, edge control
  - Shea Moisture shampoo, conditioner, curl enhancing smoothie
  - Pantene(for natural hair) shampoo, conditioner
  - o Hask shampoo, conditioner
  - OGX shampoo, conditioner
  - Maui Moisture shampoo, conditioner
  - Perfect Results shampoo, conditioner, grease
  - Salon Pro hair food/grease
- Wide tooth combs

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 4, 2025
9 AM IN THE LOBBY
DELIVER TO DROP SITE
for a photo op!!!

www.journeyneo.org/donate



# TRIP #1 ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME



Experience Hands On, Immersive Exhibitions on Your Favorite Artists at The Rock Hall. The Rock Hall is a Tribute to the Music of Our Lives and a One of a Kind Experience.



A Must Visit Museum

Styles: Rock & Roll, Pop & Rock,
Indie Rock & Roll, Reggae,
Memphis Soul, Classic Rock & Roll,
Hip Hop, Funk, Bluegrass & Rock,
Country Rock.

Rock Hall Visitors can enjoy the cafe on level 1. choose from a variety of menu items freshly prepared in the cafe or from the grab-and-go station with salad, wraps, and snacks. You'll also find a select number of tap beers and wines available at the custom bar.



## TRIP #2 GOODTIME III

# "CLEVELAND'S LARGEST EXCURSION SHIP" FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1958 Narrated Luncheon Cruise 2025



### GOODTIME III LUNCH MENU

Boarding 11 AM

Lunch served on ship, dockside at 11:00 AM Cruising 12PM (Noon) - 2:00 PM (Served on China w / Silverware)

House baked Focaccia Bread with butter

Chicken Piccata with creamy lemon caper sauce (GF)

Roasted Smashed redskin potatoes with fresh herbs (GF DF)

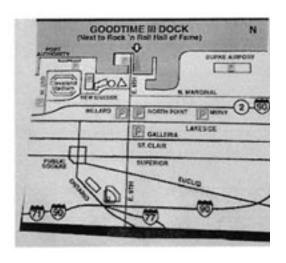
Buttered whole top baby carrots (GF)

Fruit Cup

\*vegan option available upon request
Adults \$55

Children Ages 5-12 ~ \$45

The Goodtime III is a SMOKE - FREE and VAPE - FREE vessel



Flag Day



On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress approved the design of a national flag.

Many localities and a few states were celebrating the day before President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation establishing a national Flag Day on June 14 in 1916. Americans have commemorated the adoption of the Stars and Stripes in many ways – displaying the flag in the front of their homes, parades, and other patriotic observances. Congressional legislation designating that date as the national Flag Day was signed into law by President Harry Truman in 1949; the legislation also called upon the president to issue a Flag Day proclamation every year.

According to legend, in 1776, George Washington commissioned Philadelphia seamstress Betsy Ross to create a flag for the new nation. Scholars, however, credit the flag's design to Francis Hopkinson, who also designed the Great Seal and first coin of the United States. Even so, Ross most likely met Washington and certainly sewed early American flags in her family's Philadelphia upholstery shop. To date, there have been 27 official versions of the flag, but the arrangement of the stars varied according to the flag-makers' preferences until 1912 when President Taft standardized the then-new flag's forty-eight stars into six rows of eight. The forty-nine-star flag (1959-60), as well as the fifty-star flag, also have standardized star patterns. The current version of the flag dates to July 4, 1960, after Hawaii became the 50th state on August 21, 1959.

https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/june-14/

Interviews in American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936 to 1940, contain entertaining examples of Flag Day in the American vernacular. See example below:

"Why ain't you got your flag out?" says Mr. Richmond, entering the gas station in which he spends much of his time these

days. "You know today is flag day, don't you?"

"I guess the boss forgot to buy a flag, George," says Mr. Davis, the station attendant. "And even if we had one, we ain't got no place to put it."

Mr. Richmond: "That's a fine state of affairs, that is. Here they are tryin' to bring home to you people the fact that you're livin' in one of the few countries where you can draw a free breath and you don't even know it. You're supposed to have flags out all this week. Don't you know that? This is flag day and this is flag week. Where's your patriotism?"

Mr. Davis: "What the hell are you hollerin' about, George? You're always runnin' the country down. They can't do anything to suit you. You're worryin' about taxes and future generations and all like that. Where's your patriotism?"

Mr. Richmond: "Well, that's different. A man got a right to criticize. That's free speech. Don't mean I ain't patriotic."

[Richmond]. George Richmond, interviewee; Connecticut, ca. 1936-39. American Life Histories: Manuscripts from the Federal Writers' Project, 1936 to 1940. Manuscript Division

Letter, Billy Gobitas to Minersville, Pennsylvania School Directors..., November 5, 1935.

"I do not salute the flag because I have promised to do the will of God," wrote ten-year-old Billy Gobitas, a Jehovah's Witness, to the board of the Minersville (Pennsylvania) School District in 1935. Like most public school students at the time, Gobitas was required to salute and pledge allegiance to the flag daily. His refusal to do so touched off one of several constitutional battles over the authority of the state to require respect for national symbols and the right of individuals to freedom of speech.

Both the United States District Court and the Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the right to refuse to salute the flag. In 1940, however, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the government did have the authority to compel respect for the flag as a central symbol of national unity. Just three years later, on June 14, 1943, the Supreme Court reconsidered its earlier decision, holding that the right of free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment denies the government the authority to compel individuals to salute the American flag or to recite the pledge of allegiance.

Billy Gobitas' letter is displayed (in color) in the online exhibition, American Treasures of the Library of Congress.

William Gobitas Papers, 1935-1989. Manuscript Division



# Fraternal Calendar

June	6	Deadline - Miss CSA Application and Photos	
	27	Deadline - Fraternalist of the Year Nomination Application	
July	2 2 4	Deadline - Kropik Scholarship Application  Deadline- Recipeint information form for CSA Scholarship  Home office closed for 4th of July	
August	1-3	88th Annual Get-Together in Cleveland Ohio	
September	1 26 26	Home Office closed for Labor Day  Deadline - Photo Contest Entries  Deadline - Bowl-O-Rama Entries	
October	13 15 31	Home Office closed for Indigenous Peoples' Day (Columbus) Day Deadline - Veterans Names/Articles for November Journal Deadline - Bowl-O-Rama Scores	
November	27-28	Home Office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	
December	<b>1</b> 24-25	Deadline - CSA Serves Matching Funds Request  Home Office closed for Christmas Holiday	
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\*\*Deadline for articles - 13th of every PRIOR month; ex: articles for February Journal should be submitted by January 13th.

## FAREWELL FUNDRAISER



JUNE 14TH | 5PM - 10PM

## MUSIC | BEER | WINE

PERFORMANCE BY THE OMLADINA DANCERS SHOWCASING THEIR STRÁŽNICE PROGRAM



Join us for a special evening of music, dance, & celebration as we send off the UMS Omladina dancers on their journey to represent our community at the 80th Strážnice International Folklore Festival in the Czech Republic!

UMS CLUBHOUSE | 166 N. BRANDON DRIVE | GLENDALE HEIGHTS, IL





## Remembering Lidice Commemorative Event | Sunday, June 8, 2025, 11AM Lidice Memorial, Crest Hill, IL

Join us on Sunday, June 8, as we honor the victims of the 1942 Lidice massacre—a tragic act of war that shocked the world. This year's commemoration also coincides with the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, a global milestone for reflection on peace and remembrance. Special guests will include students from Buštěhrad, Czech Republic—from the school once attended by the children of Lidice.

More information and a detailed program will be shared soon.

Sunday, June 8, 2025 | 11AM

P Lidice Memorial, Crest Hill, IL

1631 Prairie Avenue, Crest Hill, IL 60403

## District Council

## Lodges are Keeping Busy

District Council No. 10, Northern Ohio and Michigan – The quarterly meeting for District Council No. 10 was held in May. Thank you to Maryann Toncar who installed the officers. District Council No. 10 will be placing an ad in the souvenir booklet at the GetTogether. Plans for the GetTogether are rolling right along. Everyone has their special skills, and we are working hard together to show you our talents.

The lodges have been keeping busy working on the LRP. Lodge Cleveland Chapter reported they had a fun game day in March, and are planning to celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day with a lunch at a restaurant. Lodge Paramount Southgate will be working at DTJ for Join Hands Day. They are also donating to DTJ fundraisers with lottery tickets for their Bohemian raffle. Proceeds from their fundraising bus trip will go to Travis Mills Foundation and

Tunnels 2 Tower.

Birthday and anniversary wishes were announced. Kris Marek won first prize of 50/50, then she picked her hus-

band Bruce for the second prize.

Fraternally, Diane DiBianca



## Sprucing Up DTJ for JHD

Lodge Paramount/Southgate No. 372, Maple Heights, Ohio – Our meeting was on April 24 at the DTJ in Taborville, Ohio. Spring has finally



sprung! The flowers are pushing out of the ground and the trees are starting to bud.

Diane showed everybody the Platinum Award we earned from the LRP. Thank you, Home Office, for the \$500 check, it will help a lot with our projects.

In May, we spruced up the DTJ for Join Hands Day.

We are supporting the functions at the DTJ, and encourage everyone in the area to do the same. They have several Chicken or Duck Dinners. July 13 is the 102nd Cesky Den (Czech Day), August 10 is the 91st Obzinky (Harvest Festival), and October 11 is "A Night at the Races". For full calendar go to: https://www.dtjtaborville.com/events.htm.

"Happy Birthday" was sung to Bruce Marek, Michelle Wallette, and Fran Weiss (in heaven).

Remember to save the date, August 1-3, for the Get-Together! The hotel will be The Double Tree in downtown Cleveland. A reservation link is in this

*Journal*. Remember to have your favorite band or concert T-shirt when you come!

Our lucky 50/50 winners were Donna and Diane (who won twice). She put the second prize in our donation jar. Congrats!

Thank you, Kris, for providing our "snack" of big beef hotdogs with a choice of accouterments, along with baked beans, coleslaw, and strawberry swirl mini cupcakes. Thank you, Mary Ann, for the chocolate chip cookies, chocolate covered Oreos, and truffles. Everything was delicious!

Our next meetings for 2025 will be: June 11 (Bus Trip), July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 20, and December 18 is our Christmas luncheon. Come to a meeting, reconnect with friends, and have a tasty snack. We would love to see you!

Fraternally, Annette Reichman

## Project Graduation

Lodge Svetlo No. 277, Caldwell, Texas

- It's hard to believe we are halfway through 2025. I guess the saying, "time flies when you're having fun" is true. Lodge Svetlo No. 277 started our year helping out our community. We made Valentine cards and stuffed bags with bananas and raisins for over 125 residents in nursing homes in our town. We also made a donation to CHS 2025 Project Graduation. Project Graduation raises funds throughout the year to provide graduating seniors with an alcohol and drug-free activity after graduation. This year, Carolyn Doonan and Patsy Story were able to attend one of their fundraising events and present a check for \$250 to the CHS Class of 2025. We also made a \$500 donation to the CSA Scholarship Fund.

At our March meeting, we had a guest speaker, Dillon Narro, who is lodge member Betty Suehs' grandson. Dillon served five years in the Navy where he learned fire safety. After his



Making Valentine cards

service, Dillon got a job with a local Fire Safety company and spoke to us about fire safety in our homes. He had recently donated and installed a fire extinguisher in our lodge hall and he demonstrated how to use it in case of a



Enjoying dessert after the meeting, provided by Betty Suehs

fire.

Betty provided a yummy dessert that was enjoyed by all.

Fraternally, Susan Skrabanek



Dillon Narro (guest speaker) with his "Gamma" Betty Suehs



Delivery of bags to nursing homes



Project Graduation – Patsy Story and Carolyn Doonan made a presentation to the group

## Successful Czech Festival

Lodge Washington No. 30, St. Louis, Missouri – Lots of people put in lots of work to make the Czech Festival at the American-Czech Center a success, and members of Lodge Washington were involved in a big way. From baking and dumpling-making ahead of time, to cooking, serving, working at booths, and cleaning up, everyone did their part







to support the Center in this big event.

We were delighted to welcome Miss CSA Delaney Schretter and CSA's Secretary-Treasurer Nick Kosmas and his wife, Lisa, to the Festival. Delaney brought her mom, Rita, and sister, Josie. It was great to see Rita again after so many years – she was a Miss CSA Contestant when I was in charge of the Contest as CSA's Vice President! It was Nick and Lisa's first trip to our Center and they spent time meeting local CSA members and answering questions at the information table.

Delaney also met the current Miss Czech-Slovak US Queen, Trinity Pesko, and the Miss Czech-Slovak 1st Runner-Up, Aspen Hein, and the three of them had a great time, sharing information about both contests, talking with many of our guests and members, and posing for lots of pictures. We were so happy to have all of them join us, and we hope they enjoyed themselves.

Honorary Czech Consul Sharon



Valasek and her husband Gary also attended. Sharon has been a long-time supporter of our events and activities, and it was good to see the two of them again.

Other highlights of the day included a return to the walk-around Fashion Show, with members wearing their treasured Czech and Moravian kroje and describing the history to everyone who asked; a Czech deli featuring Moravian wine and Czech chlebicky; and the traditional Czech School Board booth with wine, pastry, and stuffed animals. This booth dates back to the earliest days of the Czech School at our ACEC 60 years ago, when kids would think it was fun and daring to take a chance on winning a bottle of wine - and if we did, one of our parents had to be summoned to pick up the wine ... and a lot of my friends know that from experience! We even made it to the evening news on a local TV station!

It was another great day to celebrate all things Czech, and we thank everyone who took part to make it successful. Next year's Festival is on April 11, and we hope to see you there!

We're organizing a couple of lodge activities in the next couple of months, and we'll let everyone know the details in upcoming issues of *the Journal*. In the meantime, enjoy spring!

Fraternally, Deborah Zeman



## An Abundance of May Flowers

Lodge Kruh Osvojenych Zen a Panu No. 121, Dillonvale, Ohio - Well, if the April showers bring May flowers as they say, we should have an abundance of them! With all the recent rains, storms, microbursts, etc., we should be up to our waists in all things "flowery"! The day before I began this article, our part of Ohio had 80 mph winds and damaging rains, hail, thunder, lightning... you name it. In our neck of the woods, we are usually blessed to be spared from catastrophic weather occurrences, and we are most appreciative. However, our weather patterns are definitely changing. We are hoping that this time of year finds all of you safe, healthy, happy, and feeling excited about the onset of summer!

Early in May, we joined with our friends of the Dillonvale Presbyterian Church to help celebrate the confirmation and reaffirmation of faith for Victory "Vickie" Sinkora Banal. Vickie was baptized in the church as a child and recently reaffirmed her vows.

Since she is a member of our lodge (previously a member of Lodge No. 389 of Dillonvale). We all participated in her celebratory luncheon after the church service. Lodge No. 121 was happy to provide some of the food for the meal as a service to the church and in honor of our lodge sister, Vickie. You can see Vickie pictured with her husband, Terry, and again with her sister, Louise Sinkora Vaselakes. Many of you may remember Louise as being the mother of our former Miss CSA, Michelle Vaselakes, who reigned back in the 1980s.

On May 3, we also "joined hands" with fellow members of the church while partici-



pating in a Church Cleanup Day. Our lodge members worked alongside church members cleaning the sanctuary, social hall, and surrounding areas. Attention was also given to the church grounds with weeding, grass cutting, and over-all sprucing up for the summer season. Wendy and Gary Lovell donated refreshments for all those in attendance so they could get a bite to eat, rest up, and visit with each other before going home. A good time was had by all!

We hope everyone had a blessed Easter celebration. Back in April, our members were gifted with Easter treat bags from the lodge at our dinner meeting which was held at Mehlman's Cafeteria. We were happy to celebrate receiving our Platinum Award in the Lodge Recognition Program from the Home Office! Congratulations to all our members who worked diligently to make the award possible again this year!

Congratulations to Elijah Lovell who was recently honored during Honor's Day at Ohio Northern University. As a fifth-year pharmacy student, Elijah received the Viatris Excellence in Pharmacy Award, donated by Viatris Pharmaceuticals, in recognition of outstanding leadership within the profession of pharmacy. Elijah received a certificate of recognition, a marble mortar and pestle, and







a monetary gift from Viatris. In addition, Elijah and members of his student pharmacists team also received a first place recognition in the category of "Over the Counter Medications." The annual academic challenge took place in Columbus and was sponsored by the Ohio Society of Health System Pharmacists. We are so proud of you, Elijah, and share in the celebration of your recent achievements!

In closing, I want you to know that the day I completed this article, it was still raining cats and dogs, dumplings and kolaches, etc. Rest assured; we should have an abundance of flowers this summer! We would like to wish all our men a Happy Father's Day! Thank you for the positive influences you bring to your family and friends. We honor you!

We also pause to remember the celebration of Flag Day on June 14. Did you know that there are a total of 27 versions of our American flag? It is also worth noting that six American flags have been planted on the moon. "Old Glory"…long may she wave!

Remember to check on someone you love today.

With fraternalism, patriotism, and all things floral,

Sister Wendy Kurtz Lovell







## Members "Adopt a Street" for Join Hands Day

Lodge Groveton No. 4, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania - Hello, Brothers and Sisters! Happy Summer! We hope you're enjoying the beginning of the season and soaking up these warm, sunny days! Our lodge hasn't made an appearance in the Journal in a couple months, so let's catch up.

In March, several members grabbed their chips and daubers to support a Racers for Tots bingo fundraiser. Terry and Chet placed first in their bowling league alongside teammates Jack and Deann. We continued with our monthly meetings, and we discussed the delegate-approved merger with BetterLife, the upcoming Get-Together in Cleveland, our Lodge Recognition Program status, and possible lodge events this summer.

For Join Hands Day, our lodge memparticipated in Robinson Township's "Adopt a Street" program.

Jean Placek, Terry Placek, Kathy Placek, Larry Placek, Tammy Lewicki, Chet Yurkovich, Terilyn Bichler, and Madison Bichler pitched in to clean up the lower portion of Forest Grove Road. Thank you to those who participated in keeping our community clean!

Lodge Groveton meets the first

Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at Groveton Fire Hall. Join us for some food and refreshments as we talk about all things CSA. You could even win the attendance raffle!

> Fraternally, Sis. Hunter Rae Yurkovich











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## Join Hands Day

Lodge Laurel No. 452, Ashford, Connecticut – Lodge Laurel members again joined hands with the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp for their work days. Organizations and/or businesses send some of their members to work at the camp for a day. They do grounds and building upkeep and maintenance. The camp feeds these people for the day. Lodge members baked or bought muffins, cookies, brownies, and cupcakes. The lodge bought beverages. This greatly helped the camp with their refreshments. The pictures show many of the

items we donated. Enjoy the spring!

> Fraternally, Marion Varga





Read the Journal online at: www.csalife.com

## Members Participate in Sokol Easter Egg Hunt

**Lodge Missouri No. 1, St. Louis, Missouri** – April was a busy month for lodge members. Many attended and/or worked at the Sokol Easter Egg Hunt at Sokol Camp. Hunters used flashlights to try to find one of the golden eggs hidden throughout the property. The Easter Bunny stopped by for a visit and all hunters received some kind of prize even if they weren't a lucky golden egg winner.

The Bunny Brunch had a few youngsters enjoying the event which included donuts and juice, crafts, games, attendance prizes, a visit with the Easter Bunny, and the breaking of a piñata. Thanks to District Council members for putting on the event and making sure everyone had a great time.

Members also attended and worked at the American-Czech

Educational Center's Czech Festival. There was delicious food, great drinks, lively music, costume displays, and live models wearing costumes, too. There were games to play, things to buy, and tasty foods to eat. We were pleased to have Nick Kosmas and his wife, Lisa, in attendance along with Miss National CSA, Delaney Schretter. It was a fun-filled day celebrating our Czech heritage.

We are all looking forward to warm weather and all the fun that summer brings including the Get-Together in Cleveland. Hope to see you there.

> Until next time, Marla Breidenbach







## Members Enjoyed the Jigsaw Puzzle Contest

Lodge Brookfield No. 475, Brookfield, Illinois – Lodge DuPage Pioneers invited our members to attend their April meeting and participate in their jigsaw puzzle contest. What an excellent idea, pure genius if you ask me! Each two-person team was provided with a 100-piece puzzle requiring roughly one hour to complete.

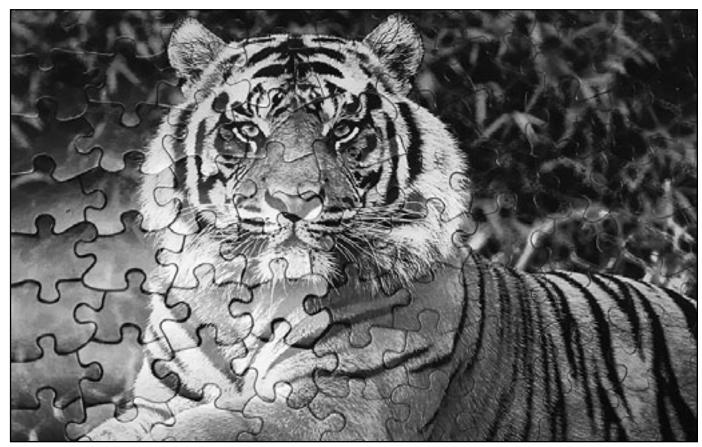
Our sharp-eyed lodge president Barbara Deig was one of the first-place winners, but regardless of how long each team required to complete their puzzle, we all had a truly great time. Following the activities, we enjoyed a raffle and some tasty refreshments. Thank you, Lodge DuPage Pioneers!

Meetings of Lodge Brookfield are conducted at noon on the second Tuesday of each month at the CSA Home Office in Lombard, Illinois. Members and guests are always welcome.

> Fraternally, Kimberly Silhan







## Helping Hands for the Crisis Center



Lodge DuPage Pioneers/Edison No. 409, Lombard, Illinois – Members and District Council No. 12 President Ken Dvorsky gathered together at our May meeting to assemble toiletries and necessities for babies, children, and adults. Members were very generous in their donations, and together we packed over 25 bags of items for women and children housed at a local crisis center. We are confident our offering will be welcome and practical for these women and children in need. Our fraternal well wishes are extended to them for a safe and brighter future.

Fraternally, Gerri Romanelli





## American Sokol Slet Coming to Chicago in June

Lodge Lincoln No. 7, Berwyn, Illinois - Prior to our April business meeting, Lodge Lincoln members enjoyed a luncheon of pizza from Paisans, tossed salad, and desserts at the home of Secretary Vera Wilt. Afterwards, a business meeting was held. Treasurer Stan Smolucha officially informed members that Lodge Lincoln was presented with the Platinum Lodge Recognition Program Award of \$500, and shared the certificate received for their efforts in 2024. Congratulations, members! Members proceeded to delegate donation funds to the Best Buddies Friendship Walk, Team Friends for Inclusion, which their members participate in.

The American Sokol Slet will be held in the Chicago area June 25-29, 2025. They are looking for sponsorships, so Lodge Lincoln voted to sponsor a beverage station during the Slet. All members are encouraged to come to the next meeting on June 11, at Irish Times, 8869 Burlington Ave., Brookfield, Illinois, at 6:00 p.m. Bring your ideas for charitable programs the lodge should be supporting. Gift cards for this local business are being bought in advance to be used for the purchase of our dinners that evening.

Following the business meeting, a mailing to the youth members was prepared. Easter greeting cards were written and each included a McDonald's gift card. One of the youth members just celebrated his 12th birthday. Happy birthday, Benjamin Gruskovak! We hope you had a great day and got to celebrate in a special way!

Lodge members will be attending the annual commemoration of the Nazi destruction of the town of Lidice, Czechoslovakia on June 10, 1942. This cultural event will take place in Crest Hill, Illinois on Sunday, June 8, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. The memorial service will be at the Lidice monument located at 1631 Prairie Ave., in Crest Hill, Illinois. Following the ceremony, all lodge members are invited to a luncheon at White

Fence Farm as a lodge treat. The restaurant is located at 5005 Fairview Ave., in Downers Grove, Illinois.

There will be no meeting in the month of July, but we will meet in August for a cookout, business meeting, and social event at the home of Stan and Pat Smolucha. Details will be coming soon!

Have a wonderful Father's Day celebrating all the fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, and stepfathers. We certainly appreciate all the love and support that you have for your families!

Fraternally,
Pat Smolucha
(s.smolucha@sbcglobal.net)







## In Memoriam

Claim	Name	Lodge	Location	Date of Death	Age
56007	Pospisil, William J.	004	LATROBE, PA	03/20/2025	55
56020	Lee, Mary E.	007	N. RIVERSIDE, IL	03/06/2025	84
55988	Schira, Judith A.	030	LEMAY, MO	03/15/2025	79
55999	Brusak, Robert L.	066	DARIEN, IL	04/01/2025	78
56016	Riha, Sandra J.	077	WOODRIDGE, IL	02/20/2025	83
56017	Cason, Daryl	077	NEW LENOX, IL	04/03/2025	69
56006	Smith, Wallace Clinton	099	CHICAGO, IL	01/03/2025	74
56012	Salatino, Geraldine A.	099	BROOKFIELD, IL	04/16/2025	84
56026	Slemer, Steven T.	157	GLEN CARBON, IL	04/19/2025	65
55995	Harant, Stephen A.	211	HEWITT, NJ	09/13/2024	68
56021	Kelly, James M.	211	RIVER EDGE, NJ	02/26/2025	61
55992	Kohler, Diane A.	219	N. RIDGEVILLE, OH	06/03/2024	85
56014	Horn, Kenneth A.	231	SARASOTA, FL	04/04/2025	81
55994	Bruno, Bessie K.	251	BELLAIRE, OH	03/19/2025	99
56005	Morris, Lillian R.	251	LANSING, OH	02/12/2025	93
56018	Homola, Harry F.	277	THE WOODLANDS, TX	02/10/2025	94
55993	McQueen, Randall	279	OELWEIN, IA	03/22/2025	60
55989	Glowzinski, Yvonne	366	PLYMOUTH, MI	07/26/2024	84
56024	Schmidt, Karen A.	377	MESA, AZ	04/18/2025	81
56027	Pastore, Robert J.	377	OAK LAWN, IL	04/13/2025	84
55991	Sticha, William	378	MORRIS, IL	03/01/2025	96
56022	Jacek, Barbara J.	378	NAPERVILLE, IL	03/25/2025	91
55998	Bejcek, Alan J.	409	NAPERVILLE, IL	02/10/2025	75
56009	Corley, Collins	422	NEW YORK, NY	02/28/2025	88
55996	Zukas, John R.	428	BALTIMORE, MD	03/19/2025	89
56019	Praus, William	428	HOUSTON, TX	05/09/2014	95
56008	Cowen, Rose A.	448	BINGHAMTON, NY	03/29/2024	78
56023	Wallace, Diane E.	475	PHOENIX, AZ	04/01/2025	74
56001	Laber, Charles E.	479	N. HUNTINGDON, PA	12/14/2024	77
56002	Gomola, Journey P.	479	CANONSBURG, PA	12/14/2024	18
56003	Laber, Charles E.	479	IRWIN, PA	12/14/2024	77
56011	Krupa, Ronald	479	RENFREW, PA	04/23/2025	87
56025	Zahrobsky, Clarence E.	479	DELMONT, PA	04/04/2025	91
55990	Washington, Clarence	484	PHILADELPHIA, PA	03/26/2025	71



Lodge Lincoln No. 7 expresses their condolences to the family of long-time member and Fraternalist of the Year, **Mary Lee** on her passing. She will forever be remembered as "Mrs. Claus" by so many children!

## Luncheon Planned to Celebrate



Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219, Cleveland, Ohio – We had our meeting at the Parma Heights Library on May 13 with 10 members attending. It was a cool, partly rainy day. After the meeting was adjourned, we ate lunch. Karen Buzek made a delicious cherry brownie cake and we put together raffle baskets for DTJ events. Our half-time Secretary, Jan Russell, was back from her world travels and Florida. It was great to see her. Thanks to Carole Cirillo for her half-year Secretarial duties.

We sang "Happy Birthday" to Karen and congratulated Tony and Judy Genco on their May 1, 49th wedding Anniversary. Our 50/50 raffle was won by Freddie and Tony.

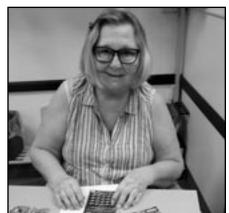
There will be a chicken or duck dinner on June 22 at the DTJ facility. On July 13, DTJ will be holding a 102nd Cesky Den celebration at their facility.

Our lodge has decided to buy \$15.00 worth of raffle tickets for the Get-Together, put a one-page ad in the Get-Together booklet, and donate money to the CSA's Scholarship Fund in the name of Elmer Soos.

On June 10, we will meet at the Longhorn Restaurant on Rockside Road at 11 a.m. We will have a short meeting and then enjoy our lunch in honor of











Mother's and Father's Days.

In July, we will have a meeting/picnic at Sylvia Lorinz's home. We will decide what everyone will bring at our June meeting.

Our member, Sue Garofalo, has two wonderful daughters, Megan and Meredith (a meteorologist). Megan recently graduated from Youngstown State University with her Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership with Superintendent Licensure. Megan is currently the Dean of Students at

Thoreau Park Elementary School in the Parma City School District. Congratulations!

Installation of most of our officers was held on May 1 at the District meeting. Diane DiBianca did the installation. Thanks, Diane!

Spring is here! We hope everyone had a wonderful Easter and Mother's Day and wish a happy Father's Day to all dads.

Fraternally yours, Judy (Sevcik) Genco

## Join Us the Second Wednesday of the Month

Lodge Century of Progress/Bila Hora, No. 231, Cicero, Illinois – At this writing, I am about to depart for Door County, Wisconsin, for my yearly "Art" sabbatical. Therefore, I am unable to report on the lodge meeting. But, I have been informed that the usual deliberations took place. For example, the Minutes and Treasurer's reports were read and probably accepted (if not, I will let you know). Our representative to the school, Roberta Kulik, reported on the school's activities, and reported on the other various lodge activities that took place.

I do know, however, that Maryann Slavik is in from her home in Puerto Rico and visiting her brother, Ed Slavik, and sister, Dolores Klejko. She reported on her volunteer activities in Puerto Rico. I will learn more about this in the future and will report back. Hopefully, she will have some photos to share with us. Also, the membership took up donations to deserving organizations. Food donations were dropped off. Also, considered was an activity celebrating both Mother's and Father's Days. There may be other things that the group is considering that I am unaware of. Again, I

will report back.

In the meantime, our meetings are generally held at the T.G. Masaryk School on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. We invite you, our members, to join us and welcome your input. Please join us at the school at 5701 W. 22nd Place, Cicero, Illinois. For more information, contact Ed Slavik at 708 423-5267.

Respectfully submitted, Elaine Tejcek



April 10, 2025 - May 10, 2025

TO CONTINUE CZECH HERITAGE AND CSA'S TRADITION OF ASSISTING OUR YOUNG MEMBERS IN PURSUING THEIR EDUCATION

Lodge Brookfield No. 475

IN MEMORY OF ARLENE SANDOVAL

Lodge Betsy Ross No. 151

IN MEMORY OF ERIC HOUKAL

Lodge Betsy Ross No. 151

IN MEMORY OF CRAIG KOVARIK

Lodge Betsy Ross No. 151

IN MEMORY OF MARJORIE NEJDL

Jean Placek

IN MEMORY OF ELMER SOOS

Lodge Cleveland Chapter No. 219

**Total Donations:** 

\$190.00

## **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 co	ntribution to	
Address		
City	State	Zip
Donor's Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip



We were delighted to donate \$5,000 from our t-shirt and mug sales to the CSA Scholarship Fund!



— the 83rd Annual CSA Get-Together Committee



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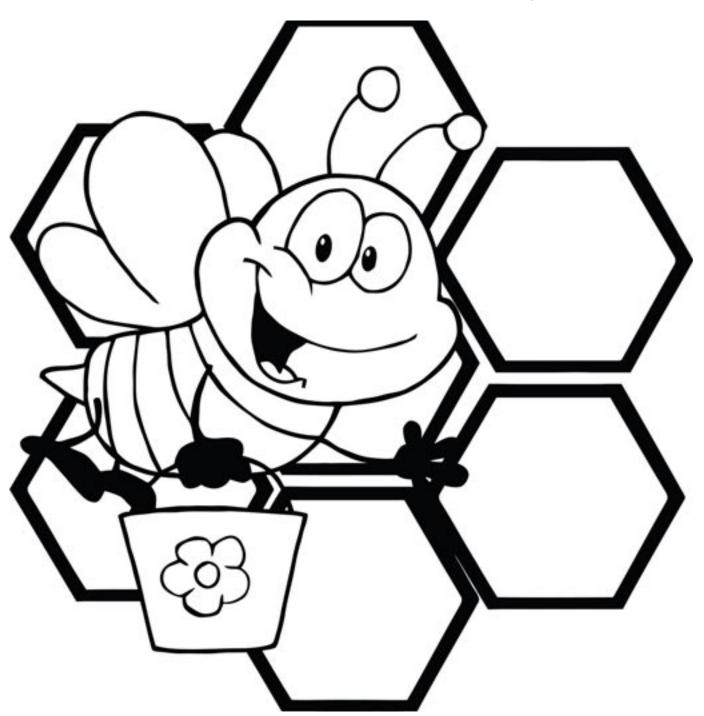
2050 Finley Rd. Ste. 70, P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148 · Phone: 630-472-0500 · Fax: 630-472-1100



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## Just Kids

# Happy Father's Day!



### Sweet Summertime







### Send Just Kids your stories, riddles, etc.

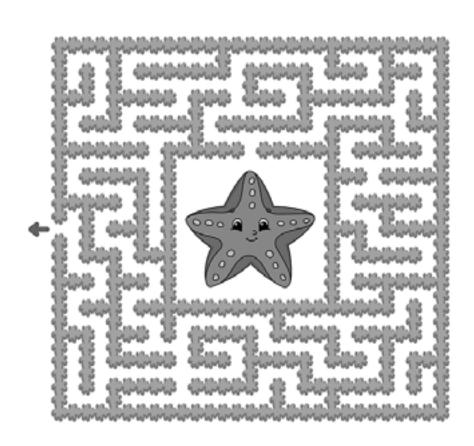
Mail: Just Kids, c/o the CSA Journal, P.O. Box 249, Lombard, IL 60148 Email to: CSAJournalEditor@gmail.com

## Czech to English

**šťastný den otců** Happy Father' Day!

oslavit vlajku den celebrate Flag Day

**vítejte léto** Welcome Summer



**FATHER** 

**STARS** 

