



## Visit from Wisconsin! by Anna Cooková of CzechTalk.com

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Many THANKS to Sokol San Francisco for the warm welcome!

For several years I have been planning to visit the Bancroft Library Special Collections and thanks to winning 1<sup>st</sup> place for my poem *Láska je silnější, Love is stronger*. I was able to make this trip and also accept the award during the Sokolský běh republiky event on 26. October. I am looking

forward to sharing the Lázeňské oplátky (made by Opavia – Opava is my hometown!) with our daughter, Fiona Cooková, when I get home, as she was my inspiration for the poem. To read the poem which won 1st place, please see: <https://www.czechtalk.com/s-projects-basic>

In the past 10 days, I was at the Bancroft Library as soon as they opened and stayed till they closed every day they were open, not taking a break for anything...no drink, no food, no restroom...I needed every minute to scan everything I could from 21 boxes of files from the Robert J. Kerner collection and am looking forward to sharing my research in the future.

Many thanks Michael Batěk, one of my online Czech language students who I was able to meet in person and who helped me get through this massive project!



While at Berkeley, it was wonderful to meet Hanka Žitňanská from Jeseníky who overheard me teaching Czech online and who had no idea that we have such a rich Czech community here in the Bay Area. Also joining me was George Tingwald, a member of Sokol Greater Cleveland and resident of the Bay Area for the past 35 years, who was also very happy to meet so many of you for his first time. We all rode together to experience your Sokolský běh republiky event!

While here I enjoyed touring and even took Amtrak to San Jose to visit Ruby Mikulencak who is President of the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention of the USA and Canada.

As I write this, I am waiting on my flight to Kansas City, MO to speak at the 2025 conference of the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International.



Looking forward to keeping in touch!

**Se Sokolským pozdravem,**

**Anna Cooková**

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