



SOKOLETTER

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NOVEMBER 2007

www.sokolbaltimore.org

UNIT MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2007
Meeting at 6:30 pm
White Marsh Library
8133 Sandpiper Circle

November 7th – Mary Parizek
November 10th – Lillian Sonberg
November 13th – Danielle Devlin
November 14th – Robert Snuggs
November 16th – Libbie Vrzalik
November 20th – Mary Mojzisek
November 26th – Delia Gross

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UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

Thursday, November 15, 2007, 7 pm.
The Embassy of the Czech Republic announces the Washington **Debut Concert of Marta Topferova** with Pedro Giraud (bass), Franco Pinna (percussion) and Roland Satterwhite (violin and guitar) at the Embassy of the Czech Republic, located at 3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008.

Saturday, December 8, 2007 - CSHA SV. Mikulas Party for children. 1:00-5:00 pm at the Belvedere Christian Church, 1301 Cheverly Rd., Towson, MD 21286.

Sunday, December 9, 2007 – CSHA Singers present their annual Christmas concert at 3:00 pm, St. Wenceslaus Church, 2111 Ashland Ave. Baltimore, MD 21205

Tuesday, December 11, 2007 – Sokol Baltimore Unit Meeting – 6:30 pm @ White Marsh Library.

Donations to Sokol Baltimore

Rose Cervin
Rose Marie Krajca
Carol & Ron Bierwagen in memory of Rose Friedrich

Happy November Birthday!

November 1st – Marie Primus
November 2nd – Michelle Horner

Czech & Slovak Heritage Assoc. Festival ~ October 14, 2007

Richard Bradley did an outstanding job at the Festival. There were many door prizes, a silent auction, a children's program and enjoyable dancing music. This was a first for the children's performance. The boys wore decorated hats and the girls wore flowered headpieces. They danced and marched around the hall and stole the show. It is always so rewarding to see long time friends. The attendance was smaller than last year.

Our Sokol table was decorated by Anna Losovsky and the bakery was plentiful. The bakers donate their time and ingredients. Thanks to the following bakers: Sisters Anna Losovsky, Marie Pokorny, Anci Huber, Liz Kokes, & Rose Marie Krajca. Almost all the bakery was sold and the profit was \$981.60.

Sokol is grateful to all the helpers who pitched in at the table Sis. Lee Sain, Cathy Pokorny, and Bob Losovsky; and thank you to Br. Alex Vanicky for the donation of sketches that were sold. Many folks are members of both the CSHA and Sokol Baltimore and they pitched in at various tables at the festival. Their efforts were noted and sincerely appreciated.

Volunteers at the Sokol Baltimore Table



From left: Cathy Pokorny, Marie Pokorny, Anci Huber and Anna Losovsky

Baltimore Marathon

Wow, I did it! You may not be surprised that I finished the 2007 Baltimore Marathon, but what you don't know is that I did it while still recovering from an injury that kept me from running for nearly 3 weeks prior to the race. The course was an awesome tour of the city, and it was fun thinking about how each step I took made Sokol Baltimore one step closer to building a new home. I wonder how many steps that is exactly? Enjoyable as it was, the race was tough. 26.2 miles is difficult enough, but considering my injury status and the hills...oh my goodness the hills! Despite the challenges, I shaved nearly 12 minutes from my previous time finishing in *only* 4:41:18.

The marathon started on the west side of Camden Yards, went north to Druid Lake, over to & down St. Paul Street through downtown, through Federal Hill and around Fort McHenry (my favorite), past the inner harbor and Little Italy to Canton, up through Patterson Park and Clifton Park, around Lake Montebello, over to Johns Hopkins University and the BMA, and back down through downtown one more time to finish past Camden Yards in front of the Johnny Unitas statue at Ravens stadium.

I would like to thank everyone who supported me by sending well wishes, making a financial donation to Sokol Baltimore's New Building Fund, and especially to those who I saw that attended the race. A marathon is a challenging and grueling commitment, and I do them

because I'm committed to Sokol Baltimore. It's refreshing to realize that I am not alone. Thanks for helping me out.

Will Kool

As of 10/31 donations from the following have been received:

Joni Diedrich & Steve Askew
Ann & Frank Huber
Kate & Joseph Ehrenberger
Lillian Sonberg
Audrey Benda



At the Finish Line

Christmas Greetings

A reminder: anyone who wishes to have a Christmas greeting printed in the December Sokoletter, please call or send the message to the editors by November 23rd.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UNIT MEETING October 10, 2007

Recording Secretary's Report: none. Sis. Betty Joy Kilian will take minutes.

Treasurer's Report: none at this time because Mercantile is changing to PNC bank.

President's Report by Br. Bohus Bata:

1. Youth parent requirement is illegal; it does not follow the American Sokol By-laws.

2. All districts are against the Executive Director's job description because it is unclear.

3. Discussed Č.O.S. By-laws-

Starosta is defined as mayor.

Načelník is defined as leader.

4. Pres. Bata picked up a picture of the 1st American Sokol Slet donated by Sis. Sophie Catterton of Sokol Curtis Bay.

5. To schedule meeting of Sokol Baltimore's Board of Directors.

6. The sign should be posted on the Honeygo Property by Friday.

Corresponding Secretary's Report by Sis.

Betty Joy Kilian:

>Read two letters from Sokol San Francisco to the members. The members voted in support of Sokol San Francisco's stand. The vice president was requested to write a letter to Sokol San Francisco in response to their letters.

>Sokol Washington's 60th Anniversary invitation was shared with members.

>Reviewed stories in the Slovo about early immigrants to America and the hardships they faced. Shared the articles about Milada Horaková and the female Catholic priest.

Board of Instructor's Report:

~On the first night of gym only one student attended. The problem was created by not having a set date to have access to the facility. The church was repairing the roof and the extensive hazardous fall-out on the gym made it impossible to hold classes. By October many of the returning students had signed up in September for activities elsewhere. The instructors plan to call former students and encourage them to attend or return to classes. Due to the poor response of returning gymnasts, the exhibition participation of the gymnasts at the festival this year is impossible.

~A facility at the corner of East Avenue and Dillon Street is available to non-profits. Sis. Baker was given the information by Sis. Mary and Darryl Jurkiewicz. Sis. Baker toured the facility. The first floor would be ideal. The President and other officers of Sokol Baltimore need to see and evaluate the feasibility of the building prior to negotiating anything.

~The Eastern District Director of Men, Br. Ron Jaros, will be unable to attend the Directors Conference in Texas, the 19 and 20 of October. Sis Baker will be going as his representative along with the District Director of Women, Sis. Donna Spriglia.

Vice President and Educator's Report: Sis.

Anci Huber:

*Reminder that October 28 is

Czechoslovakia's Independence Day

*Discussed President Masaryk and his death on 9/14/37 and the replacement of a statue of Woodrow Wilson at the main train station in Prague - called Wilson Station.

*Shared copy of the entire Song Book that is located in Sokol New York's Library.

Old Business:

1.Report of Vinobrani by Br. Huber

2.Ways and Means Committee need to meet and plan fundraisers for the Moose in Essex and/or at the Fish & Games Sports facility on Honeygo Blvd.. Need a chairman to head up these events.

3.A raffle for fundraising should be considered.

4.Report from Delegate to the Eastern District Meeting on 9/22/07 at Sokol Little Ferry:

+Read Eastern District Slate of Officers.

+District considering an Eastern District Slet venue for group calisthenics, a fitness challenge, a picnic, a cookout, and games to be held at Lansdale, PA or Vetna, on the beach, within walking distance of Ocean City, New Jersey.

+All units voted not in favor if requiring one parent of each gymnast to be a Sokol member. Units are against sending their 990's to the American Sokol. American Sokol can access that information on line where all non-profit organizations' 990's are listed. Members of District questioning long term funding of elected positions as required by the strategic planning committee. The March 8th District meeting is to be held in Maryland.

EDUCATION

The Velvet Revolution occurred in the month of November 1989. It started on Nov. 17 with a mass demonstration but on their way to St. Wenceslaus Square they were surrounded by police and attacked. On Nov. 20 demonstrations spread throughout the country. Students strike in every major university. The students are spreading the rally to farmers and workers. Their rallying cry is **"We are your children, don't let them beat us!"** The revolution is spread to Bratislava and Brno. On Nov. 27 the Czechoslovak population follows the call for a general strike and Vaclav Havel is elected President of Czechoslovakia on Nov. 29, 1989. The people have fought communism and the government

has returned to the people. (from an article in the December 1990 flyer).

Other Important Dates in November

Nov. 8, 1620 – Battle of White Mountain (Bila Hora) was fought and Czechs lost their freedom for 300 years.

Nov. 11, 1918 – Armistice signed ending the First World War (Armistice Day, now Veterans Day).

Nov. 13, 1904 – Federation of Czechoslovakian Sokols merged into the Czech Sokol Union, Č.O.S.

Nov 17 Struggle for Freedom & Democracy Day. Commemorates the student demonstration against Nazi occupation in 1939 and the demonstration in 1989 that started the Velvet Revolution.

Nov 18, 1883 – the National Theater in Prague was reopened after burning down on Aug. 12, 1881.

Nov. 1865 funeral of Jindrich Fuegner, co-founder of Sokol, and on Nov. 1884 funeral of Miroslav Tyrš, founder of Sokol, were held.

SOKOL WASHINGTON'S 60TH

On October 28, 2007, Sokol Washington celebrated 60 years of existence and the Czech Republic celebrated the founding of Czechoslovakia. Both the Czech and Slovak Embassies were represented. Prof. Agnew, from George Washington University, the speaker at the celebration explained his love for his adopted country Czechoslovakia and the importance that Sokol has played in its pursuit of a democratic state.

Sokol members from Texas, Illinois, New York, Maryland, and Virginia were present. A letter from Mildred Barcal was read and Pres. Miro Neovesky called her on his cell phone so that all present could shout a "Nazdar" to her. Prior founding members were given gold Sokol pins in memoriam; they were: Br. Jaroslav Kaspar-Paty, Sis. Rose Friedrich, Jiri Vaclav Parma, and present members were Bro. Anthony Bartos, and Sis. Dagmar White. Sokol Washington did an excellent job. The children's performance stole the show. Dagmar White's Sokol Choir sounded beautiful

and Br. Bob Rychlik played the Fujara, an instrument played in the mountains to pacify and calm the sheep. The Slovak folk music band from N.Y. "Pajtaši" filled the rest of the evening with dancing and remembering. It was a wonderful and emotional event and we hope that Sokol Washington continues with the same enthusiasm that was evident on Sunday.

Nazdar, Anči and Sokol Baltimore

(Presently there are 25 to 30 children in the gymnastic classes, 12 women in aerobic classes, volleyball and soccer teams; as well as, physical outings: canoeing, camping, hiking, skiing, tennis, biking and social and cultural programs. Also, the yearly laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, in memory of all who made the ultimate sacrifice in the fight for freedom.)



Sokol Washington children in costume



From left: Br. Larry Laznovsky, Br. Joe Vrzalik, Sisters Jean Hruby, Carrie Baker, Norma Zabka, Br. Tony Bartos, and Sis. Irene Mergl

Gymnastic Update by Sister Carrie Baker, Director

- ❖ Currently, we have 89 gymnasts, 3 coaches and 3 junior coaches.
- ❖ In the last month, I have traveled to New York for the 140th Anniversary and Fort Worth for the Board of Directors and Development Conference. Both were very interesting; much emphasis was put on the upcoming Slet in Fort Worth in 2009. Everyone seems very excited and they are working hard to make it the place to be in 2009. I have gymnasts that are already talking about it. Last but not least, I traveled to Sokol Washington for their 60th Anniversary. It was a wonderful event. I made some good contacts and hopefully we can combine some events with Sokol Washington.
- ❖ This past month we participated in SIP kids in Dundalk and we performed at the Federal Hill Jazz Festival. Abbie, Brittanny and Amelia did a wonderful job representing Sokol Baltimore.
- ❖ November 2, we will be checking a new space for our gymnastic program. I will keep everyone posted.

News about our Members

Br. Donald Otenasek was recently hospitalized with a severe sinus/ear infection. He has now been transferred to a rehabilitation facility for convalescence before returning home.

Sokol New York's 140th Celebration

On Saturday, October 14th I attended the 140th anniversary celebration of Sokol New York, held in their Hall on 71st Street. Following playing of the anthems, everybody was welcomed by Sis. Irene Mergl, anniversary committee chairman. Hon. Halka Kaiserova, consul general of the Czech Republic, then brought greetings, followed by American Sokol president Bro. Larry Laznovsky, who reflected on the Sokol movement in the USA. The speeches were concluded by president of Sokol New York, Sis. Norma Zabka, who briefly highlighted major events in the Unit's history.

The attendees were then entertained by IMAGO, a group of 4 male performers (from the famous Cirque de Soleil), who used a cube (about 10 ft) to do a synchronized performance using difficult gymnastic moves. The knowledgeable attendees awarded them during and at the end with enthusiastic applause.

Following a pork and dumplings dinner, the evening was spent listening and dancing to the live Music of Kontacty. Everybody had a good time, and congratulations are due to Sokol New York for a successful celebration of a major milestone, and best wishes for another 140 years.

Bo Bata



Sis. Rose Cervin at 95



Future Home Sign for Sokol Baltimore is now in place on Honeygo Blvd. It was donated by Ann & Frank Huber.

The Sokoletter is published monthly by Sokol Baltimore Inc. All articles, news and contributions can be forwarded to Ann or Frank Huber, 514 Sellrus Court, Fallston, MD 21047-2421, (410) 877-0534. Email: frankh1228@aol.com or ann12141@aol.com. Material to be published is due by the 20th of the preceding month. Please also advise of address changes, etc. to ensure continued delivery. Annual subscription is \$ 10.00 for all non-members. Send check, payable to "Sokol Baltimore" to P.O. Box 448, Perry Hall, MD 21128.



SOKOL BALTIMORE
P.O. Box 448
Perry Hall, MD 21128

DATED MATERIAL

Dear Friends of Czech Culture:

The weather is turning chilly, the leaves are turning gold....and before your know it....the holiday season will be upon us! Join us at the Embassy of the Czech Republic as we share with you beautiful ornaments that were handmade in the Czech Republic. Event details are below!

Exhibition and Lecture

Christmas Ornaments

Wednesday, November 7, 7–9 pm

Where: Embassy of the Czech Republic
3900 Spring of Freedom Street, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Admission: Free, Reservations requested.

Reservations: (202) 274–9100, ext. 167

The European Trading Company, based in Brown Deer, Wisconsin, has imported Christmas ornaments made of glass from the Czech Republic since 1994. Their Golden Bell Collection (TM) offers the largest selection of Czech ornaments in the United States. The ornaments are hand-blown and hand-painted in the centuries old tradition of fine glassblowing by Bohemian and Moravian artisans. This skill, started in the 19th century in the mountains of Northern Bohemia, is passed down from one generation to another. Nina and Vashek Cinadr of the European Trading Company will present a lecture about the hand-painted decorations and offer various ornaments for sale.

Mary E. Fetzko
Cultural Section Embassy of the Czech Republic