



# SOKOLETTER

P.O. Box 448  
Perry Hall, MD 21128  
Phone: 410-276-9798

JANUARY 2008

[www.sokolbaltimore.org](http://www.sokolbaltimore.org)

## UNIT MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16,  
2008**

**Meeting at 6:30 pm**

**White Marsh Library  
8133 Sandpiper Circle**

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## Board of Directors Meeting

On November 11, 2007, at 4 pm the Board of Directors of Sokol Baltimore met at the home of Bro. Rokos to discuss the future plans of Sokol Baltimore. Those in attendance were Bros. Cervin, Rokos, Romadka, Huber, Kool, Bata and Sisters Sain and Pokorny.

Pres. Bata gave a report on the status of our present plans for a new hall. The current plans are for a building that could easily exceed 3 and 1/4 million dollars. For that reason new plans and directions are needed. The possibility of constructing in segments and using prefabricated steel was discussed.

The need to work on campaign fund- raising was the next order of business. Bro. Rokos told us about a consultant, Martha Meehan, who could be of great assistance with our fundraising. He will contact her after we redefine our plans. We hope to have some concrete decisions by Sept. 08.

Bro. Kool next suggested the possibility of using our Sokol web-site to inform our membership about future plans, and invite the members to respond. The members would be kept up to date by the newsletter and the web-site.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Jan 13, at 4 pm at the home of Bro. Rokos. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Pokorny,  
Recording Secretary

## UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

**January 7, 2008 – Beginning of Session II,  
Gym Program**

**Sunday, January 13, 2008 – Board of Directors  
Meeting, 4:00 pm at Bro Michael Rokos's house.**

**Wednesday, January 16, 2007 – Sokol  
Baltimore Unit Meeting – 6:30 pm @ White  
Marsh Library.**

**Czech & Slovak Language School – sponsored  
by CSHA. Spring semester classes begin on  
January 26. For info. Call (410) 243-1710.**

## Donations to Sokol Baltimore

Rose Cervin  
Rose Marie Krajca  
Mary Kotras  
Fred Marsik  
Marie Pokorny  
Christopher Nenadal in memory of Marie & Frank Vitak

## Happy January Birthday!

January 1<sup>st</sup> – Rose Marie Krajca  
January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Joseph Vrzalik  
January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Patricia Watkins  
January 9<sup>th</sup> – Anton 'Tony' Primus  
January 11<sup>th</sup> – Paul Dunn, Jr.  
January 12<sup>th</sup> – Slavoj Vanicky  
January 15<sup>th</sup> – George Mojzisek  
January 15<sup>th</sup> – Carrie Ann Baker  
January 17<sup>th</sup> – Marie Pokorny  
January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Evelyn Manning

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UNIT MEETING

December 11, 2007

- ❖ Minutes were read and approved.
- ❖ Attendance was low but the members in attendance enjoyed delicious Christmas treats.
- ❖ Treasurer's Report: The checking account at Mercantile Bank had various charges for transactions. Now that PNC has the account, there are no extra charges linked to the checking account
- ❖ **Pres. Bohus Bata** reported on the Board of Governors' and the Board of Directors' meetings.
- ❖ The priest from Saint Patrick's has not returned Pres. Bata's phone call.

### BOI Report-Carrie Baker

1. Session one ending in December.
2. Plan to have a holiday skills clinic on 12/27.
3. In February a clinic will be held in N.Y.
4. Session two begins in January.
5. Two gym classes for home schooled children will be held on Monday at 4:15 and Tuesday at 3:15.
6. The cheer leaders have relocated.
7. The gym equipment is becoming run down. The unit has not replaced equipment for years. Sister Carrie Baker encouraged members to think outside the box. She mentioned several available areas for the gym program. Carrie brought up locations such as the church in Essex that offered Sokol Baltimore a huge space or the purchase of a steel building still at the warehouse valued at \$70,000. Sis. Baker suggested getting together interested individuals and discussing various gym sites and set up a plan.

### Educational

Sister Pokorny exhibited two beautifully embroidered blouses, a porcelain cup and saucer, a ruby colored lead crystal plate, and a beaded purse from Czechoslovakia.

*Dear Sokol Family:*

*Frank and I have been editing the newsletter for three years. We would like to include a section where members could participate such as a human interest section. Members like to know what is happening in other Sokol individuals' lives. This month we have included an update on Brothers Chalone and Otenasek and others. People are important and Sokol being a family organization, we want to keep in touch. Please call 410-877-0534 or Email: [ann12141@aol.com](mailto:ann12141@aol.com) or [fhuber1228@aol.com](mailto:fhuber1228@aol.com) with any information or news to place in the newsletter.*

## NEWS FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS

**Br. Donald Otenasek** has been a patient at Franklin Square Hosp., Ivy Hall, & the Multi-medical center near St. Josephs. He is at home with his cat, Dolly, and Don is slowly recovering.

**Br. Charles Chalone** writes: Sorry for being so late in my holiday greetings. I was hospitalized from July to November of this year in the VA Rehab. Center on Loch Raven Blvd. In July I was found lying on the floor of my apt. where I had been for about 2 or 3 days. I was dehydrated and was rushed to Mercy Medical Center and from there I was transferred to the care of the Veterans Administration for care. I had to be fed and was unable to walk. I finally made it to the use of a wheelchair and then to a walker. I still find it difficult to walk, but I'm trying to get around with the walker. During November, the VA sent me home care nurses everyday; almost, except for a few days. I wish you all my best. Take care and good health, as always, Charlie WW II vet.

P.S. I am 86 years of age.

**Sis Jacquelyn Marek Wood** visited **Sis Marie Newman**, who is now living on the Eastern Shore. Anci called and had a short conversation with Sis. Neuman prior to New Years.

**Sis. Carrie Baker's** Mom got married New Years and the grandchildren: Drew and Abbie were in the wedding.

**Sis Evelyn Manning** became a great-grandmother and **Br. Ron Manning** is now a grandfather. Congratulations to the Manning family.

**Sis Lillian Kamphaus** spent 8 days at Sinai Hospital in the Oncology Unit. She is home and trying to regain her health. She has lost weight and has a very poor appetite. Her son, Eric, is with her. Remember, Br. Charles Kamphaus passed away on 1/15/07; keep Lil and all our Sokol family and friends in your prayers.

*In 2008 let's reach out to each other and feel the warmth of friendship and concern for our Sokol Family. We wish good health, happiness and the combined gifts and abilities that enable Sokol Baltimore to pursue its goals. Nazdar!*

### COOKING CLASS

In the suggested Strategic Planning Cultural Program a cooking class is mentioned. In the past Sokol Baltimore enhanced the cooking capabilities of our members in our Sokol kitchen. I remember **Sis Marie Sochurek** standing on a box, stirring goulash and telling us how more onion made it better. **Sis Marie Pokorny** gave dumpling instructions to the young instructors. Marie has

continued to teach us how to bake housky (bread). She is willing to continue to instruct us using her mother Mentlik's recipes. All we need is an interested group and a big kitchen. Please someone volunteer your big kitchen and interested individuals call **Sis Marie Pokorny, 410-663-0825**.

## EDUCATION ARTICLE

### In Great Britain "Boxing Day" December 26 Outside the Commonwealth: "Saint Stephen's Day"

Boxing Day is a traditional celebration dating back to the middle Ages, the giving of gifts to employees or to people in a lower social class. In feudal times, Christmas was a reason for a gathering of extended families. All the serfs would gather their families in the manor of their lord, which made it easier for the lord of the estate to hand out annual stipends to the serfs. On 26<sup>th</sup> December, after all the Christmas parties, the lord of the manor would give practical goods such as cloth, grains, and tools to the serfs who lived on his land. Each family would receive a box full of such goods, hence "Boxing Day." According to tradition, the lord of the manor did not volunteer, but was obliged to supply these gifts.

In churches, it was traditional to open the church's donation box on Christmas Day, and the inside was to be distributed to the poorer or lower class citizens on the next day. In this case, the "box" in "Boxing Day" comes from that lockbox in which the donations were left.

Through the years the staff having to work on an important day as Christmas, were given the following day off and the Christmas dinner leftover food was boxed and taken home with the servants so that their family could celebrate a special holiday family meal.

In the Czech Republic, Christmas (Vánoce) is celebrated on what is considered Christmas Eve (Štědrý-December 24). Traditionally Czechs fast all day until they sit down for the meal of carp, potato salad, and special Christmas cookies. Once everyone has finished eating, a bell is rung to announce that Baby Jesus (Ježíšek) has come and gone and left presents underneath the tree. December 25, Christmas Day is první váno or První svátek vánoční. December 26, druhý váno or Druhý svátek vánoční or St. Stephen's Day. Don't forget the significance of January 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **This Is Winter**

*Early darkness – later dawn,  
Snowdrifts on December's lawn,  
Frosty windows, glistening panes  
Bits of ice and freezing rain,  
Evening quiet – fires aglow  
Diamonds sparkle on the snow.*

*Gentle moments – far-off sky,  
Winds blow fierce while breezes sigh,  
Deserted streets and doors closed tight  
Shutting out the winter night,  
Big black clouds are overhead  
Naked trees seem cold and dead.*

*Birds seek shelter in the pines  
Waiting for spring's happy signs,  
Precious bits of golden sun  
Twilight hour when day is done,  
Beauties all the world can see  
This is winter – bold and free.*

Garnett Ann Schultz

### **Winter Countryside**

*A white-feathered snow has fallen  
And covered the faded green,  
The world lies silver-spindled  
In the ice-crystal country scene.  
The singing brook is silent,  
Frozen in winter's clasp,  
Hemmed in frost-laced stitchery  
With ice-laden blades of grass.  
The winter world is a sparkling land,  
Trees glisten in each new-born sun,  
Each dazzling crystal's radiant design  
Gives praise to Him, the Holy One.*

Elisabeth Weaver Winstead



The following letter to the Board of Directors is reproduced for the enlightenment of all members and friends of Sokol Baltimore. You should know the results of the Capital Campaign survey. It may aid you to understand the level of commitment, or lack thereof, to constructing a gym.

**September 1, 2007**

**To the Board of Directors of Sokol Baltimore**

***Results of Capital Campaign Survey***

A letter, architectural plans, and survey form was sent in early May to all Sokol Baltimore members and twenty other persons, who have been strong supporters of our unit. A total of 138 letters were mailed. The letter requested that the recipients return the survey form by the end of May. A reminder letter was sent on June 18<sup>th</sup> to those who had not responded, and a second and last reminder was sent on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Also a reminder note was included in the June and Summer newsletters.

A total of 61 completed survey forms have been received as of August 31<sup>st</sup>. This equates to a response of 44%.

The attached spreadsheet provides a listing of the Sokol Baltimore members and friends that were sent the packet plus the survey form. All who responded are identified and their possible financial support and comments are recorded in the spreadsheet. There are a number of non-specific commitments which one cannot determine a dollar value at this time. The probable total commitment is \$272,370 (less than 10% of the projected cost of the building).

As you can see, tentative pledges by four families amount to \$245,000 or 90% of the total.

After the members of the Board of Directors have had time to review the data in the spreadsheet, I would expect they may have questions of me. I will be glad to meet with them at any time.

In my opinion, I believe that the BOD now has enough information to decide on a course of action, e.g. hire a professional fundraiser to conduct a capital campaign feasibility study; begin planning a capital campaign (with or without a professional fundraiser); abandon any plans for a capital campaign.

Before I close I wish to express my current opinion about this capital campaign feasibility project. First, a reminder that less than a half dozen members voted against selling the hall and also against purchasing the property on Honeygo Blvd. Second, the average age of our membership is about 68 years. Also, over a quarter of our members are singles, widows or widowers living on a fixed income. Most members, who may have a nest egg, need this financial assurance for unexpected expenses like home repairs, and more likely, medical costs. In summary, the great majority of responses to the survey indicate that the members are in favor of funding the building, but cannot make a commitment.

**My two biggest disappointments in this feasibility study are:**

**1-The lack of response to the survey by over 50% of our members** (*perhaps a phone call and/or visit should be considered in the future*).

**2-The refusal of members and supporters, who are more than financially secure, to make a major commitment.**

Respectfully,  
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](mailto:frankh1228@aol.com) or [ann12141@aol.com](mailto:ann12141@aol.com). Material to be published is due by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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.