



SOKOLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

P.O. Box 448
Perry Hall, MD 21128
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www.sokolbaltimore.org

UNIT MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2008

Meeting at 6:30 pm

**White Marsh Library
8133 Sandpiper Circle**

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met on 1/13/08 at Br. Michael Rokos' home where Martha J. Meehan, a Financial Advisor at Merrill Lynch and a Marketing Specialist for Non-Profit Organizations was invited to listen and share ideas with the Board. It was a very informative meeting and the members appreciated her expertise. Ms. Meehan also handles the financial investment portfolio for the Bohemian National Cemetery.

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Where Are You?

For the past two years now Sokol Baltimore has held monthly unit meetings at the White Marsh Library. It is easy to get to and is handicapped accessible. Where are our members who could not, or would not, journey to St. Patrick's in Fells Point?

Please Support our Gym Program

As you all know, 2007 utility rates increased over 50%. This extra expense has pushed our gym program deeply into the red. We are asking you to make a donation of 20, 50, or 100 dollars to help mitigate the red ink for the current session. If you cannot afford a \$20 donation any amount is appreciated. Please send your check to the financial secretary at 514 Sellrus Ct., Fallston, MD 21047. Thanks.

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

Saturday, February 9, 2008 - TAMBURITZENS

If you like Eastern European and nearby folk dancing, you can see the Tamburitzens in Rockville, MD, at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 7:00 PM. Box Office (240) 314-8690.

Saturday, February 9, 2008 – SIBRINKY Dinner & Dance, 7:30 PM. Sponsored by Sokol Washington at St. Luke's Orthodox Church, 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101. See page 4 for details & contact.

Sunday, February 17, 2008 – Board of Directors Meeting, 4:00 pm at Bro Michael Rokos's house.

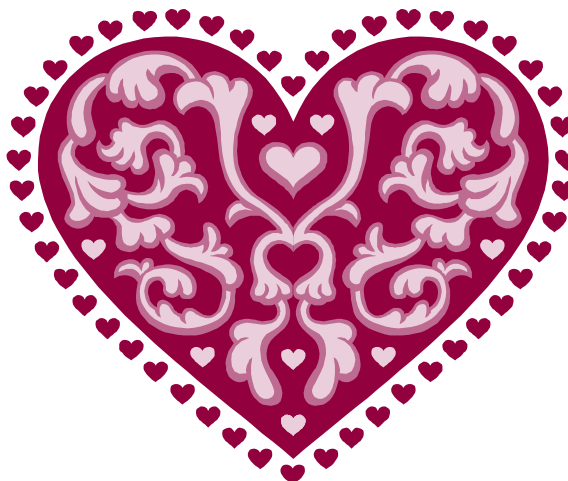
Tuesday, February 19, 2008 – Sokol Baltimore Unit Meeting – 6:30 pm @ White Marsh Library.

Donations to Sokol Baltimore

Steve Askew & Joni Diedrich
Rose Cervin
Rose Marie Krajca
Fred Marsik
"Tony" & Marie Primus
Olga Rosser
Lillian Sonberg

Happy February Birthday!

February 1st – Bernadine Wittman
February 2nd – Edward Foreman, Jr.
February 9th – Albert Kotras
February 20th – Roberta Price
February 25th – David Cahlander
February 28th – Stephen Askew



Sokol Baltimore Monthly Unit Meetings

Monthly meetings through April of this year will be held at the White Marsh Library. They will begin at 6:30 PM. The dates are: February 19th, March 17th, and April 16th.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UNIT MEETING January 15, 2008

- * Low attendance
- * The December minutes were approved.
- * A \$15 bill received from the Dept. of Labor & Licensing. A \$100 bill for membership to the Maryland Assoc. of Non-Profit Organ. (MANO) was also received.
- * Sis. Norma Zabka, Pres. Of Sokol NY, is researching the use of a park on Long Island to have an Eastern District Sokol family picnic at the beginning of summer.
- * The Board of Directors Meeting on 1/13 was very informative and encouraging. One of the first steps is writing a "Case".
- * Financial Secretary, Br. Frank Huber, shared that the membership dues are coming in and he is requesting \$10 yearly fee for folks who would like to receive the newsletter.
- * Arrangements for a dance/dinner fund raiser has been difficult because the businesses do not return phone calls.
- * No report from the Treasurer or report from the Board of the Instructors.
- * Pres. Bata reported on the rental cost of the United Evangelical Church facility on the corner of East and Dillon to be more than we can afford. Plan to continue pursuing building plans.
- * Membership decided to continue meeting at the White Marsh Library in February, March and April. - Meeting adjourned

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT MEMBERS

- ❖ **Br. Will Kool** has received his pilot license.
- ❖ **Br. Robert Romadka** became a great-grandfather in January.
- ❖ **Penny Jackson** is still at the nursing home. She is a real trooper even though the cancer and radiation destroyed the areas that allow her to live at home.
- ❖ **Sis. Helen Pelz's** grandchildren & **Br. Skip Pelz's** children spent a semester in Prague. Brandi Pelz a few years ago; Johnny Pelz is in Prague now.
- ❖ **Sis. Lil Kamphaus** is still recuperating.
- ❖ **Br. Don Otenasek** is home trying to get better. He enjoys conversation; give him a call.

- ❖ **Nathan Ehrenberger** is in northern Iraq. Members please keep him in your prayers.
- ❖ **Sis. Ruth Bata** broke her hip and had surgery. She is now in a rehab facility called: Future Care Chesapeake, at 305 College Pkwy., Arnold, MD 21012. Ruth's room is 315. I am not sure when she will be released but she may be there until 2/6/08.
- ❖ **Abbie Baker** competed at Harford gymnastics on Sunday, 1/27. She placed **FIRST** all around, Level 4, in the 6-7 year age group. We are so very proud of her and wish her continued success.
- ❖ **Reminder 2/12, Tuesday, is the primary. Remember to vote.**

Carrie Baker -- Board of Instructors

- Planning an "Annette Fest"; date to be determined. Requesting items to fill baskets which will be raffled at the Annette Festival. Proceeds to go towards repair or replacement of equipment and/or training of the coaches.
- The New York Clinic was postponed.
- **Sis. Stephanie Tucker** placed 2nd in a National Cheerleading competition. She was representing the University of Delaware.
- **Br. David Ehrenberger** is helping teach junior boys.
- **BOI** send their thought and prayers to **Nathan Ehrenberger**.
- Classes are picking up.
- Planning a new format for a dinner/dance. It will be a family Sokol dance. Carrie, her Mom and Frank Huber are working together on it. Stay posted more to follow later.
- Carrie and the members appreciate **Sis. Angie Damario**. She has absorbed many responsibilities and is an asset to Sokol Baltimore. The parents of the gymnasts have told Carrie, how pleased they were with Angie's performance. **Three deserved NAZDARs** for a job well done! Thank you, Angie, from your Sokol family.

Valentine's Day

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Valentine's Day is a saint's day commemorating [Saint Valentine](#) on [February 14](#). It is the traditional day on which lovers express their love for each other by sending Valentine's cards. Modern Valentine symbols include the heart-shaped outline and the figure of the winged cupid. Since the [19th century](#), handwritten notes have largely given way to mass-produced [greeting cards](#). The mid-nineteenth century Valentine's Day trade was a harbinger of further

commercialized holidays in the United States to follow. The U.S. [Greeting Card Association](#) estimates that approximately one billion valentines are sent each year worldwide, making the day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year behind Christmas. The association estimates that women purchase approximately 85 percent of all valentines.

February fertility festivals

In [Ancient Rome](#), [February 15](#) was [Lupercalia](#), an archaic rite connected to fertility, without overtones of romance. Lupercalia was celebrated by shepherds, and has also some connection with the Arcadian Lycaea. At this time many of the noble youths and the members of the magistrate run up and down through the city naked, for sport and laughter, striking female's hands with shaggy thongs. Women of rank purposely get in their way, and like children at school present their hands to be struck, believing that the pregnant will thus be helped in delivery, and the barren to pregnancy.

The word Lupercalia comes from lupus, or wolf, so the holiday may be connected with the legendary wolf that suckled [Romulus and Remus](#). Priests of this cult, luperci would travel to the lupercal, the cave where the she-wolf who reared Romulus and Remus allegedly lived. Lupercalia was a festival local to the city of Rome. Pope [Gelasius I](#) (492-496) abolished Lupercalia.

In the [United States](#), the first mass-produced valentines of embossed paper lace were produced and sold shortly after [1847](#) by [Esther Howland](#) (1828-1904) of [Worcester, Massachusetts](#). Her father operated a large book and stationery store, and she took her inspiration from an English valentine she had received. Since [2001](#), the Greeting Card Association has been giving an annual "Esther Howland Award for a Greeting Card Visionary."

In the second half of the twentieth century, the practice of exchanging cards was extended to all manner of gifts in the United States, usually from a man to a woman. Such gifts typically include [roses](#) and [chocolates](#). In the [1980s](#), the [diamond](#) industry began to promote Valentine's Day as an occasion for giving [jewelry](#). As a joke, Valentine's Day is also referred to as "Singles Awareness Day." In some North American [elementary schools](#), students are asked to give a Valentine card or small gift to everyone in the class. The greeting cards of these students often mention what they appreciate about each other.

The evolving legend:

St Valentine was persecuted as a Christian and interrogated by [Roman Emperor Claudius II](#).

Claudius was impressed by Valentine and had a discussion with him, attempting to get him to convert to Roman paganism in order to save his life. Valentine refused and tried to convert Claudius to Christianity instead. Because of this, he was executed. Before his execution, he is reported to have performed a miracle by healing the blind daughter of his jailer.

In the other legend Valentine is portrayed as a priest who refused to follow a law. [Roman Emperor Claudius II](#), allegedly ordered young men to remain single. The Emperor supposedly did this to grow his army, believing that married men did not make good soldiers. The priest Valentine, however, secretly performed marriage ceremonies for young men. When Claudius found out about this, he had Valentine arrested and thrown in jail. In an embellishment to *The Legend*, on the evening before Valentine was to be executed, he wrote the first "valentine" himself, addressed to a young girl identified as his beloved, the jailer's daughter whom he had befriended and healed. It was a note that read "From your Valentine." In another apparently modern embellishment, while Valentine was imprisoned, people would leave him little notes, folded up and hidden in cracks in the rocks around his cell. He would find them and offer prayers for them.

A Poem by Lord Byron

*She walks in beauty, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies,
And all that's best of dark and bright,
Meet in the aspect and her eyes;
Thus mellow'd to that tender light
Which heaven and gaudy day denies.*

**Happy Valentines Day from
The Officers of Sokol
Baltimore to our friends,
the Members and our
Families.**

Valentine's Day postcard,
circa 1910



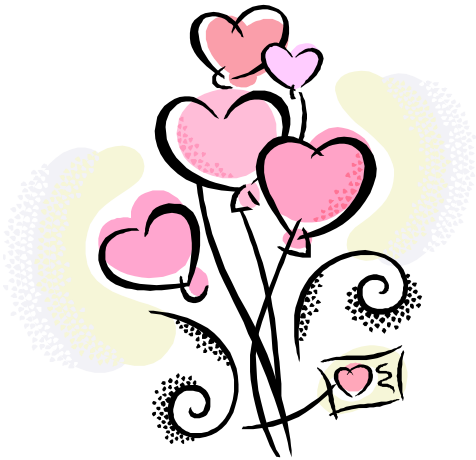
Please remember to pay your 2007 membership dues!!

Send your check payable to "Sokol Baltimore" to
Frank Huber, Financial Secretary, 514 Sellrus Court,
Fallston, MD 21047



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

DATED MATERIAL



AMERICAN SOKOL, WASHINGTON, D.C. www.sokolwashington.org and the soccer team of Sokol Washington, D.C. cordially invites you to the

SIBRINKY / FASIANGY MASQUERADE BALL

Dinner and Dance

February 9, 2008 at 7:30 PM

St. Luke's Orthodox Church
6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101

We will serve veal schnitzel and potato salad (included in the admission).
For refreshment you can enjoy Pilsner Urquell on tap and wine.

The Slovak folk music group Pajtasi (cimbalovka) from New York will provide the mood

ADMISSION:

- advance payment ~ \$10.00 for Sokol members and \$15.00 for non-members
- at the door ~ \$15.00 for Sokol members and \$20.00 for non-members

Checks for advance admission tickets should be made out to Sokol Washington, D.C.
and mailed to: Br. Milos Toth, 8416 Donnybrook Dr., Chevy Chase, MD 20815

DIRECTIONS:

Take the exit 44 East, Rt. 193 (Georgetown Pike) towards Langley, continue on Georgetown Pike for about 0.8 miles, you will see a sign for the St. Luke's Orthodox church on the right side of the road, soon after you pass Cloister Dr. if you get to the intersection with Douglas Dr. you went too far.