



SOKOLETTER

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

OCTOBER 2008

www.sokolbaltimore.org

UNIT MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22,
2008**

Meeting at 6:30 pm

**White Marsh Library
8133 Sandpiper Circle**

Letter from the President

It is my great honor to write you this first time as the President of Sokol Baltimore.

I am not new to Sokol, it has always been a part of my life. My grandmother Mamie Rokos was a member, as were my father George Rokos and his sister Bessie. The gravestones of my relatives at the Bohemian Cemetery all proudly bear the Sokol logo. My great-grandfather, Josef Klecka had the honor to serve as President of Sokol Blesk (as it was called back in the day) and even used his saloon Ceske Hostinec on Ashland Avenue as an early meeting place for Sokol prior to the building of the first hall at Gay and Preston Streets. In the Czech lands, my great-aunt, sister to my grandfather, Bozena Rokosova Juglova was a close friend of the wife of Sokol founder M. Tyrs. A few years ago I got to meet her son, Vilem, who was 93 at the time and still living in Prague. He told me stories of the founders of Sokol. My grandfather, Gustav Rokos, was the founder of Sokol Toledo, now part of Sokol greater Cleveland.

As I assume the presidency of Sokol Baltimore I would like to let you know of my priorities. First, I want to see to the raising up of a new generation of leadership for Sokol in Baltimore. We have some gifted young people and it is time for them to be given the joy and responsibility of leadership. My second priority is to resolve the challenges of the new hall and gym, assuring the continuation of Sokol in Baltimore.

It is my goal that both of these priorities be achieved in time for our 140th anniversary in 2012. Sokol played a pivotal role in the creation of a nation in 1918; I think we can together achieve the goals of leadership and a facility in Baltimore.

Nazdar,

Michael Rokos

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

Sunday, October 12, 2008 – 22nd Annual CSHA Festival at the Baltimore 45 Association Hall - Putty Hill Ave. & Old Harford Road. 12 Noon to 6:00 PM.

October 26, 2008 – Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Arlington National Cemetery – 12:15 PM.

Saturday, November 1 – Vinobrani (Grape Harvest) **Dinner 6:30 & Dance 7:00 – 11.00. Music by Joy of Maryland.** At the American Turner's hall. For reservations call Frank Huber (410) 877-0534.

Donations to Sokol Baltimore

Ann & Frank Huber

Happy October Birthday!

- October 1st – Mildred Vrzalik
- October 1st – Robert Romadka
- October 3rd – Edward Makowski
- October 4th – Sarah Pokorny
- October 12th – Helen Pelz
- October 14th – Kimberley Huff
- October 25th – Dorothy Delp

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New Financial Secretary

Sister Kristen Cahlander is our new, and much younger, Financial Secretary. All donations, membership dues, gym registration fees, and payments of any kind should be sent to our Perry Hall post office box. The correct address is:

Sokol Baltimore, Inc.
PO BOX 448
Perry Hall, MD 21128

VINOBRANI

Sokol Baltimore's annual Grape Harvest dinner & dance will be held on Saturday, November 1st. We encourage all our members to come and enjoy this traditional affair. Contact family and friends to join us in the celebration!!! Call Frank Huber @ (410) 877-0534 for your reservations.

Brief News

Bro. George Bata and wife Eva celebrated their 50th anniversary in July. The date was during their annual stay at Nags Head, NC, where they rent for a week a beach house for themselves and their son, two daughters and their families with 4 grandchildren. Best wishes for many more anniversaries.

Thomas Bata, shoe industrialist, whose family shoe factory was in Harford County, died 9/1/08 at the age of 93.

The following deceased Sokol members, who were also members of the Czech Society of Arts and Sciences, Inc.-S.V.U.(Společnosti Pro Vědy a Umění), were recognized: **Anton Cihlar, Frank Hejny, Jaroslav Kaspar-Paty, Frank Novak, Karel Prchal, Mildred Prchal, Marie Provaznik, & Agnes Svejda.**

A new Czech publication, **Czech Slavnosti**, is available from Wilber, NE. It will be published six (6) times a year at a cost of \$12. To subscribe contact: The Czech Slavnosti, P.O. Box 457, Wilber, NE 68465 or (402-821-2586).

A new publication of the Moravian Archives, "**Faith, Love, Hope: A History of the Unitax Fratrum**" tells the story of the pioneer church of the first Protestant Reformation of the 1400s in Bohemia. It includes Jan Hus and his efforts at reform, his trial and martyrdom, the Hussite wars, John Žižka, and Europe's "first Protestant king" George Poděbrady. Order forms are available on the Internet at www.MoravianArchives.org.

June Meeting – 9/10/08 – Officers accepted and voted on.

Highlights from Sokol Baltimore's Annual Meeting 9/10/08

Help – Sis. Huber cannot find her recent **Slovo magazine**, missing since the meeting.

Recognized deceased members and 9/11. Delegates for the Eastern District chosen. The 990 for 07 was mailed. Members encouraged to attend Vinobrani. New building may be reduced in size due to funding. Pres. Bata reported the National Board of Governors will be meeting prior to Thanksgiving. Discussed national by-laws in reference to membership categories and election of the Executive Director. Four months of Treasurer's report given. New President, **Br. M. Rokos** shared his Sokol family history and his plans as president of Sokol Baltimore.

Received an interesting article from Br. Fred Marsik:

Marine Raised Flag at Iwo Jima And Profile of Immigrants' Service

The article is from the Washington Post, July 30, 2008. Mary Pero said she knew her brother Michael Strank was a citizen, "but I didn't realize he didn't have any papers." *By Ben Hubbard*

The 1945 photograph of six U.S. servicemen raising the flag over Iwo Jima won a Pulitzer Prize, served as the model for the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, and has become one of the most enduring images of World War II.

But until this year, the U.S. Marine Corps wasn't aware of the immigrant background of one of the men in the photograph, Marine Sgt. Michael Strank, thinking he was born in Pennsylvania. He was born in Czechoslovakia.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services tried to rectify the oversight yesterday by presenting Strank's younger sister, Mary Pero, 75, with a certificate of citizenship in a ceremony in front of the statue that bears his likeness. Pero accepted the certificate on his behalf, smiling proudly in front of the towering bronze statue.

During the ceremony, Jonathan Scharfen, acting director of CIS, said Strank hailed from "a long line of famous American immigrants who served their country in time of war."

Strank was born in Jarabenia, Czechoslovakia, and immigrated to the United States in 1922, where he lived with his family in Conemaugh, PA. Strank became a citizen when his father, Vasil, was naturalized in 1935, although the younger Strank never received a certificate. Strank's mother, Martha, was naturalized in 1941.

After graduating from high school and spending a year and a half in the Civilian Conservation Corps, Stark joined the Marines and served on various bases in the United States and in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, before sailing for combat in the Pacific in 1942.

Four days after landing on Iwo Jima, Strank, four other Marines and a sailor raised the flag atop Mount Suribachi. Strank's sister recalled seeing the image in her local paper, although at the time she had no idea her brother was one of the men.

Almost 7,000 U.S. military personnel, mostly Marines, died in the 36-day assault, and nearly 20,000 were wounded, making it one of the war's bloodiest fights. Strank, 25, died in combat a week after the flag raising, and Pero, who lives in Davidsville, PA, remembered that her mother knew what had happened as soon as she saw the man with the telegram approaching their house.

The family didn't learn Strank was one of the men in the photo until after his funeral, Pero said, when reporters called their home. In 1949, Strank was reinterred in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Marine Corps was unaware of Strank's immigrant history until this year, Scharfen said, when a Marine security guard at the U.S. Embassy in the Slovak Republic who was researching Strank's background found no record of Strank being a U.S. citizen. This year, he filed an application for posthumous naturalization for Strank, Scharfen said.

CIS investigated, finding that Strank had been naturalized but never received a certificate, Scharfen said.

He said Strank's story represents the contributions that immigrants have made to the United States throughout its history, adding that new immigrants can apply for citizenship after their first day of military service. He said almost 40,000 people have become citizens this way since the rule was created in 2001.

After the ceremony, Pero posed for photos in front of the monument with her husband and six other family members. The family had always known Strank was a citizen, she said, "but I didn't realize he didn't have any papers."

"I feel so proud," she said gazing up at the bronze face of her brother. "It makes me feel that this is history."

She pointed to her 9-year old grandson, Tommy Pero, who carried a black-and-white photo of Strank. "I think about as he grows up and has a family," she said, "this will all still be here."

Rebuilding the Woodrow Wilson Monument

The **American Friends of the Czech Republic** in partnership with the city of Prague and the Metropolitan District of Prague 1 are sponsoring the rebuilding and installation of the Woodrow Wilson Monument. The dedication of the re-created statue will be in the vicinity of the renovated Wilson train station. AFOCR is soliciting donations. For more

information about the project and how you can donate call 202.413.5528 or go to their website www.afocr.org.

Sokol Washington Events/Activities

For those of you desiring to be informed of Sokol Washington's activities please visit their website www.sokolwashington.org. If you cannot access the internet and wish to receive a paper copy of their newsletter the "ASW Flyer", please send a written request to: **Brother Tibor Bartalos**, 1001 3rd Street, S.W., Apt. 705, Washington, D.C. 20024. Sokol Washington's newly elected **President** is **Br. Jan Kocvara** – WELCOME! Sokol Washington along with the Washington Chapter of SVU will be offering a Czech and Slovak language school 7–8 p.m. on Fridays for children prior to their Sokol exercise group. A **pre-school/play group** is to be held on Saturdays 10 a.m. to 12 noon for children four (4) and under where they can speak and play Czech and Slovak games. Contact **Br. Tony Bartos** at 703-395-1071 for information about the language school and play group.

October 28, 1918

Remember October 28th will be the 90th Anniversary of the beginning of the independent Czechoslovakia. Names like Tomáš G. Masaryk and Woodrow Wilson come to mind along with this important date.



Article by Margaret Supik

Margaret Supik, President of the **CSHA**, wrote an article, *Baltimore's Česká vesnice (Czech village)* in the September 2008 issue of *Naše Rodina*. The article covered the many businesses, banks, churches, and organizations that formed the Czech neighborhood. It is an excellent and enjoyable read. I would encourage others to read the article and pass it on. Thanks to Margaret's time and effort to publish this article. Folks in Maryland are so very proud of her.

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.



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DATED MATERIAL

SOKOL BALTIMORE GYMNASTICS

Have begun again!
 We offer Recreational Gymnastics Classes for children
 of all ages and ability!
 We are tumbling flipping and having fun!
 Check out below to see what classes fit in your
 schedule

Tuesday

2:00-2:45 Tots/Home School
 6:30-7:15 Tots
 6:30-7:30 Beginner
 7:30-9:30 Inter/Adv

Wednesday

4:30 –5:15 Tots
 5:30-6:15 Tots
 6:30-8:00 Tramp & Tumbling

Thursday

6:30-7:15 Tots
 6:30-7:30 Beginners
 7:30-9:30

Saturday/Sundays

Inter/Adv Private Lessons For class prices contact
 & Birthday Parties Carrie Baker 443-676-5827

Sokol Baltimore, Inc.

Officers 2008 – 2009

President Michael Rokos	1st Vice-President Bohus Bata	2nd Vice President William Kool
Corresponding Secretary Betty Joy Kilian	Recording Secretary Marie Pokorny	Treasurer Steve Askew
Financial Secretary Kristen Cahlander	Education Anci Huber	

Directors 2008 – 2009

Bohus Bata	Joseph Ehrenberger	Edward Foreman, Jr.
Frank Huber	William Kool	Donald Otenasek
Michael Rokos	Robert Romadka	Leilani Sain