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APRIL 2009

www.sokolbaltimore.org

online issues @ www.sokolbaltimore.org/1872/sokoletter.html

UNIT MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009

Meeting at 6:30 pm

St. Margaret's
Episcopal Church
1834A E. Joppa Road



UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

Saturday, April 4, 2009 – Eastern District Semi-Annual Meeting, 12:00 pm at **American Sokol Little Ferry, NJ.**

Sunday, April 5, 2009 – Board of Directors Meeting, 3:00 pm @ **President Michael Rokos's** house, 2203 Mayfield Ave. (410) 366-6016.

Monday, April 20, 2009 – Sokol Baltimore Unit Meeting – 6:30 pm @ St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. **Stay for the movie "Nicholas Winton, The Power of Good"**.

April 2nd – Donald Otenasek
April 2nd – Michael Rokos
April 3rd – William Belbot
April 4th – Franklin Vanik
April 4th – Terry Harrison
April 5th – Alex Vanicky
April 15th – Brandon Smith
April 20th – Milton Hilger
April 23rd – Charles Marek, Jr.
April 25th – Jerry Hejny
April 25th – Ronald Manning

Donations to Sokol Baltimore Newsletter

Sophie Catterton/Lois Hammel
Gloria Srsen
Wendy Rejna
Frank & Ann Huber

Donations to Sokol Baltimore

Helen Pelz
Jerry Valcik
Steve Askew & Joni Diedrich
Marie Pokorny (donations from the baking class)

Building Fund Donations

Fred Marsik
Rosemarie Krajca
Joseph & Patricia Watkins in memory of their son, and Sokol member, Mark Watkins

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April Unit Meeting

The April unit meeting will start at 6:30 pm and will end at 7:15 pm. Immediately after the meeting the widely acclaimed movie **"Nicholas Winton, The Power of Good"** will be shown. It tells the story about an Englishman, Nicholas Winton, who saves 669 Czech children from Nazi concentration camps just before the Second World War. The movie is adapted from the book. It is about one hour long. Refreshments will be available. All are invited!!

Thanks!!!

Thanks to the Sokol member(s) who repaired the driveway at St. Margaret's. Their efforts have provided us free use of our meeting space at the church.

Highlights from Sokol Baltimore's March Meeting - 3/16/09

A moment of remembrance and silence was observed due to the recent passing of **Br. Mark Watkins**. The minutes were read and the treasurer's report was given. President Rokos reminded the members of the historical significance of March 15th. It was the day 70 years ago that the Nazis took over Czechoslovakia; making Bohemia and Moravia a protectorate and Slovakia an independent country. American Sokol President Br. Larry Laznovsky sent a cover letter, followed by a 3 page description of the Executive Director's role and responsibilities. This was sent to the Pres. Michael Rokos to be shared and read by all the Sokol unit members. It was suggested to include Pres. Laznovsky's letter and Exec. Dir.'s job description in the April newsletter – see attached. Transfer of records was discussed and bank signature cards are being taken care of. Director of the Board of Instructor's (BOI), Sis. Carrie Baker resigned the Director's position. Sis. Baker will actively continue her membership with Sokol Baltimore. Sis. Baker was complimented on her time and dedication to the gym program at Sokol Baltimore. It became necessary for her to have a full-time job in order to care for her family and members fully understand her circumstances. Acting Director of the BOI, Sis. Kristen Cahlander, along with Brs. Will Kool and Rick Lund met with the gymnastic instructors: Emma Sachs, Amy Lukas, & Angie Damario to plan the future gym programs. Sis. Cahlander complimented the instructors for their dedication and resourcefulness meeting the demands of the gym program. The BOI is going to have parent organizational meetings on March 31, April 1 and April 2 (changed to 4/9/09). Educator shared the significance of the red velvet cake and red cookies in celebration of St. Josef's Day. St. Josef's Day is celebrated on 3/19 in the Czech Republic with red beer, wine, and food, etc.; similar to St. Patrick's Day's green. The Eastern District meeting has been changed from 3/28 to 4/4 and Sokol Baltimore requires delegates to attend. Several members hold office in the district and will be attending: Br. Bata, Br. Kool, Sis. Cahlander, and our delegate will be Br. Rokos. Sis. Huber is in contact with the American Red Cross to fulfill the education requirement in the core proposals. The next unit meeting will be held on Monday 4/20 at 6:30 pm at St. Margaret's Episcopal

Church. Following the 45 minute meeting, an hour film, starting at 7:15 pm titled "Nicholas Winton, The Power of Good." Meeting concluded with refreshment and socializing.

Notes of Interest

***Sis. Lee Sain's** former husband, Pete Sain, accidentally fell into a yard fire and received 4th degree burns to both his legs up to his buttocks. He is at a burn center in Pennsylvania. He is on a respirator and has a 90% chance of losing his legs.

***Br. Donald Otenasek** fell and presently is a resident at Good Samaritan Rehabilitation Facility. Hopefully, he won't be there a long time. He wants to get home to his cat, Dolly.

*The **Czech National Theater Ballet** from Prague will perform the DC Premiere of DMJ 1953-1977, Petite Mort, and Sinfonietta, on April 25 and 26 at the Harman Arts Center, 610 F. Street W, Wash. DC. Tickets: www.harmancenter.org – 202-547-1122. (20% discount for "Friends of Czech Culture" Use discount code 5957).

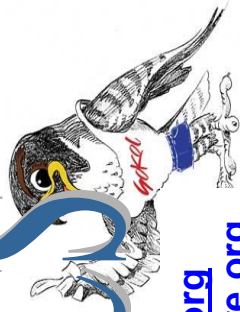
*The **Miss Czech Slovak US Pageant** will be held July 31, Aug.1-2, 2009, in Wilber, Nebraska. Requirements are: Contestant must be 16 to 26 years old, proud of her Czech or Slovak heritage and have access to a kraj. The contestant will win scholarships and a trip to the Czech or Slovak Republic. For complete information and entry application see the website at: www.missczechslovakus.com – someone will help the applicant. This is an opportunity for a young woman.

***2009 Regional SVU Conference**, June 5-7, 2009, College Station, Texas, with the central theme: Contributions of Czechs and Slovaks to the American Southwest, contact www.svu2000.org

Education

St. Josef's Day (Den Svatého Josefa) is celebrated March 19 in the Czech Republic. It is similar to St. Patrick's Day but instead of the color green – the color is red! They are both celebrated in March; 2 days apart. At the March meeting the members celebrated with a red velvet cake and red snicker doodle cookies, along with other treats. Historically, Josef was one of the most common Czech male's name. There is a village of Josefovice where at least one Josef lived in each and every house. Today the name Josef has dropped in popularity to being 4th with names like Tomaš, Adam, Jan, Fílíp, and Lukáš taking the first through third positions.

SOKOL GYMNASTICS



"Pursuit of health and happiness through fun fitness activities."

info@sokolbaltimore.org
<http://www.sokolbaltimore.org>

1728 Bank St
 Baltimore, MD 21231
 (410) 276-9798

Tuesday Nights **

March 31, 2009 – June 2, 2009

- 4:30pm – 5:15pm
- Parent & Child Class (ages 2-3½)
- 5:30pm – 6:15pm
- Parent & Child Class (ages 2-3½)
- Tots (ages 3 ½ -5)
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm
- Beginners (6& up)
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- Beginners (6& up)
- 6:30 – 8:00pm
- Intermediate/Advanced

Wednesday Nights **

April 1, 2009 – June 3, 2009

- 4:30pm – 5:15pm
- Tots (ages 3 ½-5)
- 5:30pm – 6:15pm
- Parent & Child Class (ages 2-3½)
- Tots (ages 3 ½ -5)
- 5:30pm – 6:30pm
- Beginners (6& up)
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm
- Intermediate/Advanced
- Tumbling/ Trampoline

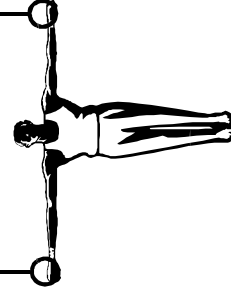
Thursday Nights **

April 2, 2009 – June 4, 2009

- 4:30pm – 5:15pm
- Parent & Child Class (ages 2-3½)
- 5:30pm – 6:15pm
- Tots (ages 3 ½ -5)
- 6:30pm – 7:15pm
- Tots (ages 3 ½ -5)
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- Beginners (6& up)

* * * * *

In case of inclement weather, Sokol classes will be cancelled if Baltimore City or Baltimore County schools are closed.



** Class schedule subject to change based upon enrollment:
 - Classes with less than 6 students may be consolidated or cancelled.
 - Additional classes may be added if current classes fill.

PRICES
 45 minute classes: \$80/session
 1 hour classes: \$90/session
 1 1/2 hour classes: \$105/session

\$35 Yearly Registration Fee

Discounts: 10% off each additional class or child (same family)

Continuation from the March Newsletter of the Biography of: Vaclav Joseph Shimek (Šimek)

Col. Shimek published a weekly Bohemian newspaper, known as the Telegraf. By the time he was 45 years of age he was president of the Bohemian Building Association, founder of the Bohemian Turners and several other prominent societies. His name was found on the roll of active members of nearly all the German and Bohemian societies in Baltimore. He was a leader of his people and a Bohemian to the heart. Those, of his own nationality who were in need, found a friend in Colonel Shimek and always found a hearty welcome at his home. He rejoiced with them when they were prosperous and their sorrows were his own. While most of his efforts were directed to the welfare of his own people, those of a different nationality were not forgotten by him. On his 45th birthday, April 28, 1896, the Baltimore Sun newspaper printed a tribute to him: "Many Callers Visited, The Bohemian Mayor of Northeast Baltimore." He held an informal reception at his home, which adjoined Bohemian Hall. Addresses were made by representatives of the Bohemian Building Association, Bohemian Turners, American Legion of Honor, and a number of other societies. He was a life-long Democrat and known to all the leading politicians of Baltimore. Although several times his name was slated for political office, he refused being satisfied to serve his party and people as an ordinary citizen.

In 1897, the Baltimore Sun, on January 2, wrote: The Baltimore Bohemian Regiment, which was organized a short time ago by Mr. V.J.Shimek would go to the front should this government and Spain engage in warfare. Mr. Shimek received a communication stating that the Bohemians of Chicago had organized and would go to Cuba, whether the United States recognized Cuba's government or not. "This will not affect the Bohemians of Baltimore," said Colonel Shimek, "for nearly all of our people are engaged in business and have something to think about besides fighting. In Chicago there are a lot of idle people, who would join the troops for something to do. Here the people will do nothing to injure the country of their adoption. A few hot-heads, young men might have been tempted some time ago, but have abandoned on their own account all ideas of going to Cuba after we have organized." The newspaper continued, "We have in our organization only Bohemians who are loyal citizens of the United States and who will take the part of no other people. We deeply sympathize with Cuba and we would willingly fight for her independence, should our government permit us, but we will not do anything that is likely to bring about trouble with Spain. If the trouble comes though, President Cleveland and the American Army will find Bohemian troops of Baltimore among the first to go to the front." [Note 5]

The Baltimore Sun, on Sunday morning, May 21, 1911 published an article "But Mr. Preston is Not the Only Mayor." It had illustrations for four prominent Baltimoreans, one of which was Col. Shimek. The article explained.... Colonel Shimek is looked upon by many East Baltimoreans as the logical candidate, as he has already gained public office and knows something about it. He runs an organ factory, where he makes the kind of engines that grind out popular airs for Merry-go-rounds and street work. In connection with his factory he maintains a place of refreshment where he can try his tunes on the proletariat not only without cost to himself but at a small modicum of profit. The article continued....The Colonel is the most prominent Bohemian in town, although John J. Rokos is a close second. Ever since there was such a thing as a Bohemian Colony the Colonel has been looked upon as the head and front. A few years ago his title was extended so that he was regarded as the chief magistrate of all Broadway. Seeing Broadway is not complete without a glimpse of Colonel Shimek. Now it is proposed to give Colonel Shimek sway over all the section known as East and Northeast Baltimore. His friends are strong for him and there is a possibility that he will be proclaimed the boss. Meantime the Colonel stays modestly at home, circulating between his organ shop and his other place of business, letting his henchmen conduct the campaign. [Note 5]

On January 13, 1912, Saturday, Colonel Vaclav Joseph Shimek expired after a long illness, so wrote the Baltimore Morning Sun, January 14, 1912. He died at his home at 930 North Broadway. He had been ill for about eight months. He had gone to Florida and to Asheville, N.C. for treatment. In December he returned home and went to the State Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Sabillasville, MD for further treatment, but to no avail. Because of the cold wintry weather and his anxiety to be at home he returned to Broadway. It was always his desire to live and die within the shadow of the home that had so many charms for him. One of the last wishes that he expressed was to be buried from his Bohemian Hall. Amid great fanfare, with a Sokol Honor Guard and a huge procession, Col. Vaclav Joseph Shimek was laid to rest in the Bohemian National Cemetery. He was survived by his wife Mary B. Shimek [Kletzan, AKA Klegan]. They had no children. Other survivors were brothers: Frank, Joseph, and Victor and sisters: Maria Benick, Barbara Ann [Vyskocil] Hrabac, Barbara Thecla Raymond, Aloisia Kroupa and Frances Jira. [Note 1]

Colonel Shimek's will was published in the Baltimore Sun, Friday, February 2, 1912. [Note 6] He bequeathed the houses 930 and 938 [?] North Broadway and 1649 Barnes St., \$3100 life insurance, \$2,900 in a building

association and two shares of the Bohemian American Building Association. Legacies of \$200 and \$100 were given to a number of his sisters and other relatives. Col. Shimek's monument was unveiled at a large gathering at the Oak Hill Cemetery, Orangeville, MD. [Currently, Bohemian National Cemetery, Armstead Gardens], October 27, 1912. Between 400 and 500 people attended the event. The monument was erected by his widow Mrs. Marie B. Shimek. He was one of the best-known Bohemians in this section of the country and always regarded as the leader of the Bohemian Colony of Baltimore. [Note 7] More than 50 years after his death, residents of east Baltimore still recall his generosity, good works, and as an advocate for Czech culture and Czech Nationalism. Many have fond memories of parties, weddings and celebrations at Shimek's Hall on Broadway and Barnes Sts., Baltimore, MD. - Conclusion of the entire article...see March issue for first part.

Notes: [1] Baltimore Morning Sun, Jan 14, 1912, p7 col 1 pict 45
[4] The Sun, Baltimore, Sunday Morning, May 21, 1911
[5] Baltimore Sun, January 2, 1897
[6] Baltimore Sun, February 2, 1912, p12 col 7
[7] Baltimore Sun, October 28, 1912, p14 col 8
[8] Baltimore City Archives, 1884 [203], Balto., Jan. 7, 1884
[9] Baltimore Morning Herald, June 1, 1980, col 2

Source for newspaper articles found at the central Enoch Pratt Library, Cathedral and Orleans Sts., Baltimore, MD

Submitted by: Col. Joseph F. Shimek, Jr. USAF Retired, great nephew of Col. V.J. Shimek

In Remembrance of Mark Patrick Watkins

It is with deep sadness to inform the members that Brother Mark Watkins passed away on January 9, 2009. Mark was born 12/16/77; he was the loving son of members Patricia V. (nee Michalek) Watkins and Joseph T. Watkins; loving brother of Susan Watkins Mutschler and her husband Charles; Mark was grandson to long time Sokol members Marie C (nee Chytry) Michalek and Ted W. Michalek. Br. Mark was only 31 years old and had many future plans. He was an excellent student. He graduated from Dulaney High School, attended Essex Community College and then graduated with honors from Towson. Mark was employed as a Human Resource Specialist or "Jack of All Trades" for the Curry Company Copy Cat Printing on Charles Street. He really enjoyed his job. Mark recently purchased a condo and was making plans to set up his home. Mark played baseball with Lutherville/Timonium Recreation and Parks traveling team. He enjoyed playing golf, bicycling, supporting the Univ. of Maryland basketball team, and playing poker with his buddies. Br. Mark was a creative cook and never referred to a cookbook. Cooking was one of his hobbies in which he excelled. Mark enjoyed guitar music and especially liked William Favour. Brother Mark was very proud of his Czech heritage. Personally having heard about Sis. Marie Chytry Michalek's dedication as a Sokol gym instructor (Mark's grandmother), Mark inherited the commitment to his Czech background from his family. Mark's mother shared how supportive family and friends have been. Over 100 people attended the memorial service. Sokol sends condolences to Mark's family and wish we had more time to know Mark. Words are so inadequate at this time but remembering the personal joys and love that are always a thought away sometimes helps.

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.

Please remember to pay your 2009 membership dues!! If they are not paid by March 31st member is delinquent and according to the bylaws shall be suspended.

Send your check payable to "Sokol Baltimore" to

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DATED MATERIAL

Concert

On Friday, 4/17, at 8 pm, at Towson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1710 Dulaney Valley Road a concert will be presented by CSHA of students from the Bratislava State Conservatory. The students have won prizes and recognized at high level European competitions. They have VERY IMPRESSIVE repertoires. Karel Danis, 16 years of age, is a violinist virtuoso, and brother, Norbert Danis, is a pianist. Pavol Kuban, an opera singer will be accompanied by Iveta Sabová. Cost is a free will donation. Come join your friends for an extraordinary presentation and a wonderful evening. Bring friends and family. Questions: Contact – Margaret Supik at 410-662-6094.



Sokol Baltimore, Inc.

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