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MAY 2009

www.sokolbaltimore.org

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UNIT MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009

Meeting at 6:30 pm

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

Happy May Birthday!

- May 3rd – Irene Vincent
- May 9th – Philip Strayer
- May 9th – Stephanie Tucker
- May 13th – Bohumil Zajicek
- May 13th – Wayne Koscinski
- May 15th – John Vrzalik
- May 16th – Joseph Ehrenberger
- May 16th – Mary Jurkiewicz
- May 17th – Sharyn Rhodes Pokorny
- May 24th – Bohus Bata
- May 24th – Kate Ehrenberger
- May 30th – Nancy Armiger
- May 31st – Josef Kokes

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

Sunday, May 17, 2009 – Board of Directors Meeting, 3:00 pm @ President Michael Rokos's house, 2203 Mayfield Ave. (410) 366-6016.

Monday, May 18, 2009 – Sokol Baltimore Unit Meeting – 6:30 pm @ St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. Stay for the movie "Accidental Army".

Monday, May 25, 2009 – Memorial Day at the Bohemian National Cemetery, 11:00 am.

June 23-29, 2009 International Sport & Cultural Festival in Fort Worth, Texas

Donations to Sokol Baltimore Newsletter

Audrey Benda
Frank & Ann Huber

Donations to Sokol Baltimore

Frank & Ann Huber – in memory of Marie Neuman
Frank & Ann Huber – in memory of Mark Watkins
Mildred Vrzalik – in memory of Martha Krajca Baumgart
Alma McComas – in memory of Rose Cervin

Building Fund Donations

Rosemarie Krajca
Helen Hejny – in memory of Marie Neuman
Jeff McLaughlin & Charlotte Powell – in memory of Marie Neuman



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Nominating Committee

Joseph Ehrenberger, Dave Cahlander and Frank Huber were selected to be the Nominating committee at the April unit meeting. They are charged to present a slate of officers, for the 2009-2010 year, at the May unit meeting. Any Sokol Baltimore member who has been a member for two or more years is eligible to serve as an officer. Don't say "nobody asked me". Contact any of the committee if you are interested in a position, or would like to propose an individual for a specific office. The list of current officers and directors is on the last page of this newsletter.

May Unit Meeting

The May unit meeting will start at 6:30 pm and will end at 7:15 pm. Immediately after the meeting the widely acclaimed movie “**Accidental Army**” will be shown. It is about 50 minutes long. Refreshments will be available. All are invited!!

“See **The Whole Amazing Story** – from Professor Masaryk’s diplomacy and the Legion’s small beginnings early in World War One, to their triumphant return to the First Republic and their **President, Thomas G. Masaryk**. Get ready for one of the wildest stories you never heard. Featuring amazing photographs that haven’t been seen for 75 years. And it’s all true.

Midst the chaos of World War One and the Russian Revolution, 70,000 Czech and Slovak P.O.Ws switched sides. They became **The Czechoslovak Legion** - an Allied army fighting for a country of their own - **Czechoslovakia**. They captured half the **Trans-Siberian Railway**, half the Czar’s gold, and the heart of a new nation. Enjoy the ride.”

Extracted from the <http://web.mac/czechlegion> website

May Day Spring Open House Bohemian National Cemetery

May 3, 2009 from 1:00 – 5:00

Visitor’s Center
1300 Horners Lane
Baltimore, MD 21205

Exhibits, Food, Activities, Czech Slovak Singers
Ancestry and History

Bring information and photos to share. Call 410-309-3145 or (410) 488-0950 for additional information.

Highlights from Sokol Baltimore’s April Meeting - 4/20/09

A moment of silence in remembrance of **Sis. Marie Neuman** and **Br. Alfons Glaser**, an officer from American Sokol Little Ferry. March minutes accepted. Treasurer’s report and totals read. New applicants for membership voted on and accepted. New proposed members: **Anna Renee Harrison**, **Amy Nicole Lukas**, **Emma R. Sachs**. Since **Renee Harrison** was present, she was sworn into membership of Sokol Baltimore. Corresponding

secretary introduced a form for Sokol to register with the state of Maryland as a charitable entity. Unable to comply with trophy fund for the Slet in Texas. Br. Huber shared a letter by Saron Mack, who was trying to locate some genealogy records about his family’s past Sokol member. Received correspondence from David Morkovsky and he gave Sokol Baltimore a booklet about the city of Karvina and a ČOS publication.

Updated information about the Core Programs. Social activities occur at each and every gathering. Membership meeting activities have extended into social events where food and films have become an enjoyable time. Following the meeting, the members watched the film “Nicholas Winton, The Power of Good.” The film was a rewarding experience. The other Core Program is education and Sis. Huber is now in contact with the local **American Red Cross** of Maryland. The BAT (Basic AID Training) and FACT (First Aid for Children Today) require leadership manuals (\$7-\$15) and individual participant books (\$1-\$1.50). Sis. Huber hopes to have a fundraiser to sell cupcakes on gym nights to off-set the expense. The CPR, certifiable first aid programs may be offered in the future. Cultural Core Program has recently evolved into cooking classes. On 4/18 several members, family members and guests attended a koláč class at Sis. Pokorny’s apartment. These classes include teaching (educational), social interactions, physical fitness because a hike was accomplished while the koláč were rising, and of course the cultural portion. Another cooking class is in the planning. The core program of fitness is under the auspices of the gym program. The educator presented a program remembering Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, the liberator and president of Czechoslovakia.

The BOI report was given by Sis. Cahlander. There are 35 children registered and of that group 12 are new to the program. Due to decreased number of gymnasts on Tuesday; Tuesday classes were discontinued. Gym classes are on Wednesday 5:30 to 8 pm and Thursday 6:30 to 7:30 pm. A pilot Saturday program is in the planning and to begin on or around May 2. It may be an open gym, a practice time for calisthenics, etc. Any questions contact Sis. Kristen Cahlander at 410-963-5197. Sis. Cahlander reminded the members her acting director position ends the end of April.

Review of the contract with the Archdiocese has not been done. Br. Ehrenberger to contact Archdiocese when new priest at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church arrives. There is a time period for priests involvement in a parish.

Fundraising mentioned in reference to the Honeygo property. Advertisement in Slet program book

discussed. Passed a motion to purchase a \$50 congratulatory message in the Slet Program Book. Nominating committee selected: Brothers Frank Huber, chair; Dave Cahlander & Joseph Ehrenberger who will be contacting members to offer members the privilege of serving as an officer in Sokol. Br. Cahlander suggested that all the people who feel "They have never been asked?" It is their chance to contact a member of the nominating committee to offer to fill a position. Chair's # 410-877-0534.

Next Board of Directors' Meeting is 5/17/09 at 3 pm. Next Membership Meeting is 5/18/09 at 6:30 pm; followed by the film "Accidental Army" – see more information in this newsletter. Memorial Day celebration 5/25 at 11 am. Meeting adjourned and members were treated with delicious homemade baked items and an excellent story "Nicholas Winton, The Power of Good."

Education

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (TGM) was born 3/7/1850 in Hodonín, Moravia; the son of a Slovak coachman to Emperor Francis Joseph and a Moravian kitchen maid in a great home in Vienna. Tomáš attended school because his father begged on his knees to have permission of his employer to be able to send his son to the village school. At age 14, TGM was apprenticed to a blacksmith; a former teacher, seeing his apt pupil engaged as a blacksmith laborer, used his influence and secured a place where Tomáš could earn money and continue his education. TGM received his PhD in philosophy from the University of Vienna in 1876. In 1877, he went to Leipzig to further his studies and while there stayed at Frau Goering's boarding house. Frau Goering's daughter had a special friend, Charlotte Garrigue from Brooklyn, NY; visiting at that time. Masaryk spent time reading aloud with the two young ladies. This was the beginning of a beautiful friendship between Tomáš and Charlotte and it blossomed into a tender love relationship. The couple became engaged in 1877 and they were married in Brooklyn in 1878. They returned to Vienna where TGM served as a Docent at the University receiving no salary for three years. Masaryk earned an income by substituting for high school teachers and from tutoring. He and Charlotte had 2 children, Alice and Herbert, while still in Vienna.

The Masaryks moved to Praha in 1882 and Tomáš was appointed to the Chair of Philosophy at the Charles University. The couple was very happy and shared on every level from intellectual philosophy to family life interactions. Two more children, Jan (1886) and Olga (5/1891) were born in Praha.

Another child, Eleanora, was born in the spring of 1889 and died in July of 1889. Charlotte had a frail heart and suffered from melancholia. The baby's death and later Herbert's death from typhus disturbed her. She suffered under the interrogation by the police while Masaryk traveled abroad in France, Great Britain, United States, Canada, Asia, and other countries. TGM was busily gaining support of the various countries for the proposed independent country of Czechoslovakia.

Charlotte, nicknamed "Charlie", spent time in a sanitarium due to her heart and poor health. Masaryk had to delay his visit to see Charlotte until Dec. 1918. Charlotte's health improved after Tomáš' return. She succumbed to her poor health on May 22, 1923. Masaryk stayed in the room next to his wife at the Valeslavin Sanitarium when Charlotte was a patient there.

There is so much to write about Masaryk; he was known as the Liberator, the President, the philosopher, the statesman, the scholar, etc; other areas of notability are:

- ~He helped to organize the Legionnaires
- ~Instrumental in writing a democratic constitution for Czechoslovakia – based on the U.S. constitution.
- ~Formed the new country of Czechoslovakia.
- ~Close and dear friend of Woodrow Wilson.
- ~Fought for woman's equality. Adopted his wife's family name as his middle name.
- ~He, his wife, and children were members of Sokol.
- ~TGM did calisthenics everyday.
- ~He rode a horse until his 80's.
- ~Attacked the dishonesty of the government.
- ~Recognized leader of the oppressed minorities.
- ~Defended a Jewish tramp accused of murdering a Christian girl, called the Hilsner Case.
- ~Wrote several books: "The Problems of Small Nations in the European Crisis (1915) and his doctoral thesis the phenomenon of suicide.
- ~There is a statue of him in Washington, DC on Massachusetts Avenue as well as in Chicago on the Midway.
- ~and the list could continue.....

(Source of Information: Ann Huber's original paper on Masaryk, Wikipedia, "Czechoslovakia's American First Lady" by Mila Veger.)

If any member, gym instructor, or parent would be interested in leading (teaching) our gym children, ages 5-8 and 8-10, in the FACT (First Aid for Children Today, 5-8 yrs.) or BAT (Basic Aid Training, 8-10 yrs.) programs, please call Anči Huber at 410-877-0534. The information that is included in the leader's manual covers hygiene & health habits, first aid, personal safety, injury prevention & what to do in an emergency.



Mother's Day

May 10, 2009

Mother's day is set apart every year in honor of motherhood. On the second Sunday in May, many families and churches make a special point of

honoring mothers. Many people follow the custom of wearing a carnation on Mother's Day. If a person wears a colored carnation, it means that his mother is living. If he wears a white carnation, it indicates that his mother is dead.

A day for honoring mothers was observed many years ago in England. It was called Mothering Sunday, and came in mid-Lent. The Yugoslavs and people in some other countries have long observed similar days.

Julia Ward Howe made the first known suggestion for a Mother's Day in the United States in 1872; she suggested that people observe a Mother's Day on June 2 as a day dedicated to peace. For several years, she held an annual Mother's Day meeting in Boston. Mary Towles Sasseen, a Kentucky schoolteacher, started conducting Mother's Day celebrations in 1887. Frank E. Hering of South Bend, Ind., launched a campaign for the observance of Mother's Day in 1904.

Three years later, Anna Jarvis of Grafton, W. Va., and Philadelphia, began a campaign for a nationwide observance of Mother's Day. She chose the second Sunday in May, and began the custom of wearing a carnation. On May 10, 1908, churches in Grafton and Philadelphia held Mother's Day celebrations. The service at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton honored the memory of Anna Jarvis' own mother, Mrs. Anna Reeves Jarvis.

At the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Minneapolis, Minn., in 1912, a delegate from Andrews Church introduced a resolution recognizing Anna Jarvis as the founder of Mother's Day. It suggested that the second Sunday in May be observed as Mother's Day.

Mother's Day received national recognition on May 9, 1914. On that day, President Woodrow Wilson signed a joint resolution of Congress recommending that Congress and the executive departments of the government observe Mother's Day. The following year, the President was authorized to proclaim Mother's Day as an annual national observance. (The World Book Encyclopedia, M Volume, p.699)

In Memoriam – William Rokos, Jr.

Brother William Rokos Jr. of Sokol Baltimore died peacefully under hospice care in Tarpon Springs, FL on Saturday night, 4/25/09 around 7:30. Bill is my second cousin, and the grandson of Brother J.J. Rokos, the son of Brother William Rokos. The Rokos Family have been members of Sokol since it was founded in the Czech Lands, and counted among their close personal friends the family of Miroslav Tyrs. Ashes to be scattered in the Gulf of Mexico with those of his late wife at a later date.

Michael Rokos

In Memoriam – Marie Freyka Neuman

Marie Freyka Neuman, 91; formerly of Towson, MD, died on Monday, March 30, 2009 at the Berlin Nursing Home, Berlin, MD. Born in Baltimore, she was the daughter of the late Joseph A. Freyka and Marie Vodacek Freyka. Marie worked in banking as a Financial Officer for many years at Loyola Federal Savings and Loan. She was a longtime member of the Czechoslovakian Society in Baltimore. She is survived by a daughter, Joann N Wehnert and her husband, Edward of Ocean City, MD; a son, Dennis Neuman of Montgomery, AL; a granddaughter, Erin W Root of Tampa, FL; a great-granddaughter, Brooke Lynne Dalton of Tampa, FL and several nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Jerome O. Neuman and her sisters, Rose, Mildred and Lillian.

The family will conduct private services at a later date in lieu of flowers; the family requests that donations in her memory be made to Sokol Baltimore Building Fund, P.O.Box 448, Perry Hall, MD 21128. Arrangements are in the care of Holloway Funeral Home, P.A., 501 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD, 21804. Please visit www.hollowayfh.com to express condolences to the family. (Sunday Sun 4/5/09)

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

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FAMILY GYM/OPEN WORKOUT

*Come join us for fun and fitness with your family and friends! Need a place to practice your yoga, tai-chi, or aerobics? Want to climb ropes, jump on the trampoline, or swing on bars? Check out our **Open Gym** ***

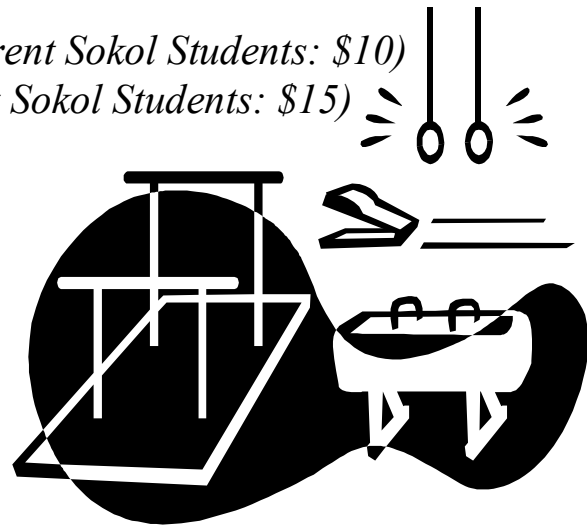
Our facility provides access to gymnastics equipment & open space to use in pursuit of your fitness goals.

MAIN ENTRANCE: Located @ rear of building; Access the building from parking lot on Gough Street.

- Saturdays, beginning May 2, 2009
- 10am – 12 noon
- Open to all ages
- Organized warm-up will be offered from 10 – 10:10am; and 11 – 11:10am
- Weekly Fee:

Individual \$13.00 (*Sokol Unit Members/Current Sokol Students: \$10*)

Family \$20.00 (*Sokol Unit Members/Current Sokol Students: \$15*)



***“Open Gym” is not an instructor-led class. (Program will run through June 27)*

- *Participants under the age of 18 must be supervised by a parent or guardian at all times*
- *It is recommended that you arrive in time to participate in the supervised warm-ups*
- *Skills and activities are at the discretion of the participant (or guardian).*
- *“Family” is defined as 2 or more participants from the same household*
- *Private lessons can be arranged in advance, for an additional fee. (based on availability)*
- *Trained staff will be on duty to oversee the safety of activities, and to offer suggestions when appropriate*

“Pursuit of health and happiness through fun fitness activities.”



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

DATED MATERIAL



Remember Memorial Day - May 25, 2009

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