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# SOKOLETTER

NOVEMBER 2009

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

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## UNIT MEETING

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2009**

**at 6:30 pm**

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



## UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

**Saturday, November 7, 2009 – Katerinska Party, American Sokol Washington, D.C. - 7:30 p.m.** at the VFW Club McLean Post No. 82. For more information e-mail: [sokol@sokolwashington.org](mailto:sokol@sokolwashington.org) or see last page.

**Monday, November 16, 2009 – Sokol Baltimore Unit Meeting – 6:30 pm @ St. Margaret's Episcopal Church.**

### Donations to Sokol Baltimore

Rose Cervin  
Millie Vrzalik in memory of Kay Hessenaur

### Donations to Sokol Baltimore Newsletter

Frank & Ann Huber      Bernadine Wittman

### Building Fund Donations

Gloria Durham      Rosemarie Krajca

### Happy November Birthday!

- November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Michelle Horner
- November 7<sup>th</sup> – Mary Parizek
- November 10<sup>th</sup> – Lillian Sonberg
- November 10<sup>th</sup> – Tina Hyde
- November 12<sup>th</sup> – Georgeanna Rokos
- November 16<sup>th</sup> – Libbie Vrzalik

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## EASTERN DISTRICT RESPONSE TO THE SPTF PROPOSAL

A letter to all members and officers of American Sokol, from those assembled at the Annual Eastern District meeting on September 26, 2009, is included with this newsletter. It describes the response of the Eastern District to the SPTF (Strategic Planning Task Force) document titled "Organizational Development – Project Charter", issued on April 20, 2009. To all recipients we ask that you read the enclosed document and know that this is the Eastern District's stance on this SPTF proposal.

## GYM FUNDRAISER

The fall session has begun for the gymnastics program. 50-50 tickets have been distributed to the gym participants and to members with the September Sokoletter. Thanks to all who have already purchased tickets. The drawing will be held at the Gym on **November 18, 2009**. Any support that you can provide to the gymnastics program is greatly appreciated.

Remember, you do not have to be present at the drawing to win. We hope you will sell/purchase all of them. Send the ticket stubs, with your check (for \$20 we hope) payable to "Sokol Baltimore", to:

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## 2009 Sokol Baltimore Members Directory

Enclosed with this Sokoletter is the 2009 Members Directory. I have attempted to minimize errors, as well as, publish only member information sanctioned by you. Please contact me to report any mistakes or suggestions for improvement.

Frank Huber

### Highlights from the SOKOL BALTIMORE OCTOBER UNIT MEETING – 10/19/09

Following the pledge of allegiance, the September minutes were read and approved. The corresponding secretary read a letter from Peter Dusek requesting information about all the Sokol Baltimore Buildings. Pres. Rokos is aware of this request and he is in communication with Br. Dusek. There is still an outstanding bill of \$42 to be paid to IWIF. The end of June 2010 a SVU Conference will be held in Tabor, Czech Republic.

Pres. Rokos spoke with the president of Sokol New York about decreasing the interest on the \$40,000 borrowed from Sokol N.Y. And, it was decided a 1% interest will be charged annually and 4% would be used towards the principal. Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed a Sokol member, Br. Klečka to be U.S. Marshall of the State of Maryland. He served from 1933 to 1946. Br. Klečka, a great uncle of Michael Rokos will be recognized and be remembered in the U.S. Marshall Museum. The double tailed lion pin symbolizing the Czech Republic is being sold by Michael Rokos as a fund raiser for the Baltimore Bohemian National Cemetery. If you are interested, contact Pres. Rokos at 410-366-6016. The sterling silver pins cost \$90 and the gold plated (vermeil) pins cost \$125.

It is necessary to fill the position that Br. Otenasek vacated on the Board of Directors. Sis. Marie Pokorny was nominated and members voted that she should fill the Board position. There will be a Board Meeting at Pres. Rokos' home on Nov. 1, at 3 p.m. Sokol Washington is holding a Katerinska Party (autumn party) at 7:30 p.m. on 11/7/09.

Br. Joseph Ehrenberger is reviewing the Merkel Insurance plan. Sometimes it is difficult to attend to financial business because of officers' time and bank hours. The gym program has 60 students registered. On Monday Will Kool, Richard Lund, and Joseph Ehrenberger are teaching. On Tuesday Renee Harrison, Rick and Amy teach, On Wednesday Renee, Kristen Cahlander and Angie teach. Saturday classes were cancelled due to low attendance. Sokol has boys participating. The Eastern District semiannual meeting is to be held in Baltimore. The Eastern District met in September and discussed changes proposed by the American Sokol. Educational Director had the Eastern District's response letter to share with the unit members but it was decided to print the response letter in the monthly newsletter.

### NOTES OF INTEREST ABOUT MEMBERS

**Br. Will Kool** representing Sokol Baltimore ran the Baltimore City Marathon and the New York Marathon. What a proud moment! Br. Kool did it as an advertisement and a fundraiser for Sokol Baltimore. If any members want to contribute to his fundraising efforts, he would truly appreciate it.

**Sis. Lee Sain's** prior husband Pete has been fitted for temporary legs and he is walking using the parallel bars. It is quite a triumph after all he has been through. The severe burns, skin grafts, and loss of his legs, as well as his age, have not slowed him down. Hurrah, we are so happy for his improvement and his attitude!

**Sis. Rosemarie Krajca** was hospitalized at Upper Chesapeake Medical Center for over a week due to an electrolyte imbalance and problems with her legs. She is presently at Lorien Riverside for physical rehabilitation.

**Sis. Liz Kokes** is recovering from complications due to a head injury. We hope **Br. Joe Shimek** is continuing to improve. Members truly care how their sisters and brothers are doing. We hope we can remain well and free of illness with all the viral concerns and bacterial infections around us.

**Sis. Marie Pokorny and Br. Tom & Sharon Pokorny** enjoyed the wedding of granddaughter and daughter, Joanna Pokorny and Aaron Lyle on October 24, 2009.

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.

## THE CZECH AND SLOVAK HERITAGE ASSOCIATION FESTIVAL

Everyone had a wonderful time. The dancers were very professional and entertaining. They had their own music and all age groups were represented. The CSHA Singers performed. The seating arrangement made more room for dancing to Joy. It is wonderful to see old friends and children of old friends. Sokol's table made \$590. That was because Sis. Marie Pokorny baked 20 vonačky and 15 dozen kolačky. Thank you to all the Sokol members and friends that supported the event and purchased items from Sokol's table. Also, thank you to Betty Joy Kilian and Anči Huber for contributing to the baked items. There would not have been a table if Sisters Lee Sain, Betty Joy Kilian, Marie Pokorny, Br. Frank Huber and Gina Ingold, Marie Pokorny's niece, had not been there to help because Anči Huber could not do it by herself. As Educational Director, "I sincerely thank and appreciate those that worked all those hours with me". We should be proud of ourselves and it was fun. Thanks, Anči



## VELVET REVOLUTION

Our November unit meeting is on the eve of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. It all started on November 17, 1989 - fifty years to the day that Czech students had held a demonstration to protest the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. On this anniversary, students in the capital city of Prague were again protesting an oppressive regime.

The protest began as a legal rally to commemorate the death of Jan Opletal, but turned instead into a demonstration demanding democratic reforms. Riot police stopped the students (who were making their way from the Czech National Cemetery at Vysehrad to Wenceslas Square) halfway in their march, in Narodni trida. After a stand-off in which the students offered flowers to the riot police and showed no resistance, the police began beating the young demonstrators with night sticks. In all, at least 167 people were injured. One student was reportedly beaten to death, and - although this was later proved false - this rumor served to crystallize support for the students and their demands among the general public. In a severe blow to the communists' morale, a number of workers' unions immediately joined the students' cause.

From Saturday, November 18, until the general strike of November 27, mass demonstrations took place in Prague, Bratislava, and elsewhere - and public discussions instead of performances were held in Czechoslovakia's theaters. During one of these discussions, at the Cinhorni Klub theater on Sunday, November 19, the Civic Forum (OF) was established as the official "spokesgroup" for "the segment of the Czechoslovak public which is ever more critical of the policy of the present Czechoslovak leadership." The Civic Forum, led by the then-dissident Vaclav Havel, demanded the resignation of the Communist government, the release of prisoners of conscience, and investigations into the November 17 police action. A similar initiative - the Public Against Violence (VPN) - was born in Slovakia on November 20, 1989. Both of them were joined en masse by Czechoslovak citizens - from university students and staff to workers in factories and employees of other institutions. It took about 2 weeks for the nation's media to begin broadcasting reports of what was really going on in Prague, and in the interim students travelled to cities and villages in the countryside to rally support outside the capital.

*(copied from Radio Prague's History Online)*



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DATED MATERIAL



**AMERICAN SOKOL WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
[www.sokolwashington.org](http://www.sokolwashington.org)

cordially invites you to

**KATERINSKA ZABAVA 2009**

A traditional Autumn's dancing celebration for people of all ages. It is a great opportunity to meet new friends and get together with old buddies. For the hungry ones we will serve the "Kotlikovy" beef goulash and in addition to the goulash we will serve German sausages "first come first serve". For refreshment you can enjoy the Pilsner Urquell from Bohemia, one of the world's finest beers with the intense taste of the Saaz hops, which blends with the malty sweetness of the barley and produces a harmonious bitterness and creamy body; and a great selection of world wines.

The Katerinska Party will be held on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.. at the VFW Club (the Veterans of Foreign Wars) McLean Post No. 82, 1051 Spring Hill Rd., McLean, VA 22102.

Admission: Sokol Members \$7.00  
Others \$14.00  
Cash only

DIRECTIONS:

Take Georgetown Pike (Rd. 193) West from 495. At the bottom of the hill, turn left onto Swinks Mill Rd. Then turn right onto Old Dominion Dr. At the next light, turn left onto Spring Hill Rd. The VFW parking area will be immediately on your left.

**Sokol Baltimore, Inc.**

**Officers 2009 – 2010**

<b>President</b> Michael Rokos	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President</b> William Kool	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b> Joseph Ehrenberger
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b> Betty Joy Kilian	<b>Recording Secretary</b> Marie Pokorny	<b>Treasurer</b> Steve Askew
<b>Financial Secretary</b> Kristen Cahlander	<b>Education</b> Anci Huber	

**Directors 2009 – 2010**

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