



SOKOLETTER

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

FEBRUARY 2010

www.sokolbaltimore.org

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

UNIT MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2010

Meeting at 6:30 pm

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

February 9th – Albert Kotras
February 20th – Roberta Price
February 25th – David Cahlander
February 28th – Stephen Askew

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Please remember to pay your 2010 membership dues!!

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

**Sunday, February 7, 2010 – Board of Directors
3:00 pm @ President Michael Rokos' house
2203 Mayfield Ave.**

**Monday, February 15, 2010 – Sokol Baltimore
Unit Meeting, 6:30pm @ St. Margaret's
Episcopal Church.**

**Saturday, February 20, 2010 – Sibrinky Dinner
& Dance at 6:30 pm @ St. Luke's Orthodox
Church. 6801 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA.
Presented by Sokol Washington. For info. go to
<http://www.sokolwashington.org>**

**Saturday, February 27, 2010 – Eastern District
Semi-annual meeting in Baltimore. 12:00 noon.
@ St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. Call 410-
366-6016 for directions. Snow date is 3/13/2010.
Lunch will be available.**

Donations to Sokoletter

Mary Kotras
Ann & Frank Huber

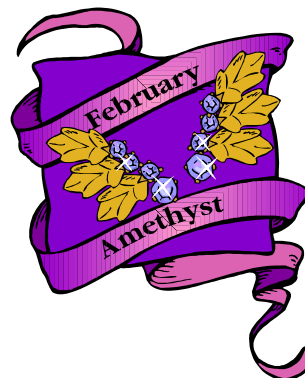
Donations to Building Fund

Rose Krajca

Happy February Birthday!

February 1st – Bernadine Wittman
February 2nd – Edward Foreman, Jr.

Send your check payable to "Sokol Baltimore" to:
Sokol Baltimore
PO Box 448
Perry Hall, MD 21128



Highlights from Sokol Baltimore's January 18th Board and Unit Meeting

Minutes from Nov. & Dec. meetings were read. Pres. Rokos thanked the Treasurer, Br. Steve Askew, for his financial reports and his many years in the position of Treasurer. Sis. Betty J. Kilian, Corresponding Secretary, presented

correspondence from the IRS to the Treasurer. Sis Kilian summarized an article about the retirement of the USA Sokol Pres. Sis. Bea Walko. Sis. Walko was a devoted Sokol member for many years and will continue supporting USA Sokol.

Bro. Bata, as President of the Eastern District, shared some of the problems in the Washington, DC Sokol and the situation in the Chicago headquarters. Bro. Huber, representing the committee, reported on the possible changes for the unit dues. The members present entered into a discussion and the committee will meet again to solve the dues quandary.

Bro. Richard Lund reported for the B.O.I. (Board of Instructors). There are now 61 children registered. A circus skills team is being formed with 6 students ranging in age from 6 – 10. In February there will be 2 classes for students from the Montessori School. There are 2 completely full Tot Classes. On 1/23 there will be a pitch in gym clean-up. On 1/16 there was a Parents' Meeting, 17 enthusiastic adults attended; they are planning a fundraiser. New keys have been made for gym entrances.

At the Board Meeting a discussion for an April/May spring dance occurred. The committee of Brothers: Michael Rokos, Ed Foreman, Joseph Ehrenberger, Frank Huber will be planning the event.

The meeting ended promptly and members were able to socialize and enjoy the snacks.

News about Members

On October 22, 2009, **Sis. Libbie Vrzalik** was inducted into the Maryland Senior Citizens Hall of Fame; recognizing her for her many days of volunteer work throughout the years. We congratulate her with a 3 times Nazdar & we are grateful to hear of her achievement.

Bro. Ed Foreman had a total knee replacement February 4, 2010. We hope he is doing well and will be up and dancing (?) at the spring dance.

Spoke with **Bro. Charles Chalone** about dues and the fact he is a World War II Veteran. Service and patriotism is something Sokol is very proud to acknowledge. Thank you for your commitment.

Bro. Anton Primus called and he mentioned he turned 93 years old on January 9th. Anton has been a member for 75 years. There are many 90 year old members the newsletter would love to mention; please call 410-877-0534 and let me know that I have permission to acknowledge

your age. Thanks. This group of members have remained loyal members for many years. Please keep in touch with Membership Chair, Anči Huber, she loves to recognize members & to know how members are doing.

Valentine's Day

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Valentine's Day^{[1][2][3]} or **Saint Valentine's Day**^[1] is an annual [holiday](#) held on February 14 celebrating [love](#) and [affection](#) between [intimate companions](#).^{[1][3]} Officially named by [Pope Gelasius I](#) in 496 AD in honor of one or more early Christian [martyrs](#) named [Valentine](#), the holiday is traditionally a day on which lovers express their love for each other by [presenting flowers](#), offering [confectionery](#), and sending [greeting cards](#) (known as "[valentines](#)"). The holiday first became associated with [romantic love](#) in the circle of [Geoffrey Chaucer](#) in the [High Middle Ages](#), when the tradition of [courtly love](#) flourished.

Modern Valentine's Day symbols include the [heart-shaped](#) outline, doves, and the figure of the winged [Cupid](#). Since the 19th century, handwritten valentines have largely given way to mass-produced [greeting cards](#),^[4] and Valentine's Day has become the second-largest greeting card-sending holiday in the United States, behind only [Christmas](#).^[5]



Victorian Valentine's Card

In the 1969 revision of the [Roman Catholic Calendar of Saints](#), the feastday of Saint Valentine on February 14 was removed from the General Roman Calendar and relegated to particular (local or even national) calendars for the following reason: "Though the memorial of Saint Valentine is ancient, it is left to particular calendars, since, apart from his name, nothing is known of Saint Valentine except that he was buried on the Via Flaminia on February 14."^[16] The feast day is still celebrated in [Balzan \(Malta\)](#) where relics of the saint are claimed to be found, and also throughout the world by [Traditionalist Catholics](#) who follow the older, pre-[Vatican II](#) calendar.

The Early Medieval [acta](#) of either Saint Valentine were excerpted by Bede and briefly expounded in [Legenda Aurea](#).^[17] According to that version, St Valentine was persecuted as a Christian and interrogated by [Roman Emperor Claudius II](#) in person. 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 1797, a [British](#) publisher issued *The Young Man's Valentine Writer*, which contained scores of suggested sentimental verses for the young lover unable to compose his own. Printers had already begun producing a limited number of cards with verses and sketches, called "mechanical valentines," and a [reduction in postal rates](#) in the next century ushered in the less personal but easier practice of mailing valentines. That, in turn, made it possible for the first time to exchange cards anonymously, which is taken as the reason for the sudden appearance of racy verse in an era otherwise prudishly [Victorian](#).^[32]

Paper Valentines being so popular in [England](#) in early 1800s, Valentines began to be assembled in factories. Fancy Valentines were made with real lace and ribbons, with paper lace introduced in mid 1800's.^[33] The reinvention of Saint Valentine's Day in the 1840s has been traced by Leigh Eric Schmidt.^[34] As a writer in *Graham's American Monthly* observed in 1849, "Saint Valentine's Day... is becoming, nay it has become, a national holyday."^[35] 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](#).



 Child dressed in Valentine's Day-themed clothing.

Her father operated a large book and stationery store, but Howland took her inspiration from an English valentine she had received, so clearly the practice of sending Valentine's cards had existed in England before it became popular in North America. The English practice of sending Valentine's cards appears in [Elizabeth Gaskell's Mr. Harrison's Confessions](#) (published 1851). Since 2001, the Greeting Card Association has been giving an annual "Esther Howland Award for a Greeting Card Visionary." 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, in the US, men spend in average twice as much money as women.^[7]

Since the 19th century, handwritten notes have largely given way to mass-produced [greeting cards](#).^[4] The mid-nineteenth century Valentine's Day trade was a harbinger of further commercialized holidays in the United States to follow.^[6]

The Sokoleter 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
 P.O. Box 448
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DATED MATERIAL



Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board of Directors meeting will be at President Michael Rokos' house, 2203 Mayfield Ave. at **3:00 pm on Sunday, February 7th**.

**Eastern District Semi-annual Meeting
 Saturday, February 27, 2010**

Will be held at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, 1834 E. Joppa Road, Baltimore Maryland. This is also the location where Sokol Baltimore monthly unit meetings are held. Lunch will be available at **12:00 noon** followed by the meeting. The meeting is open to all Sokol Baltimore members as well as the officers and delegates to the meeting. Please contact President Michael Rokos at (410) 366-6016 no later than February 24th if you plan to attend so that an accurate headcount can be made.

Sokol Baltimore, Inc.

Officers 2009 – 2010

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