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APRIL 2010

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UNIT MEETING

MONDAY, April 19, 2010

Meeting at 6:30 pm

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

Happy April Birthday!

April 2nd – Michael Rokos
April 3rd – William Belbot
April 4th – Franklin Vanik
April 4th – Terry Harrison
April 5th – Alex Vanicky
April 11th – Eric Crouse
April 23rd – Charles Marek, Jr.
April 25th – Jerry Hejny
April 25th – Ronald Manning

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

Saturday, April 10, 2010 – Eastern District Semi-annual meeting in Baltimore. 12:00 noon. @ St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. Call 410-366-6016 for directions. Lunch will be available.

Sunday, April 18, 2010 – Sokol Baltimore Board of Directors Meeting. 3:00 pm @ President Michael Rokos' house, 2203 Mayfield Avenue.

American Sokol Convention – April 22-25, 2010 in Omaha, Nebraska. For details call American Sokol at (708) 255-5397 and read the March issue of the American Sokol newsletter.

Donations to Sokol Baltimore

Marie Pokorny
Kristen Cahlander

Donations to Sokoletter

Ann & Frank Huber

Donations to Building Fund

Rose Krajca



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Remember to pay your 2010 dues

Send your check payable to "Sokol Baltimore" to:
Sokol Baltimore
PO Box 448
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Highlights from Sokol Baltimore's March 15th Unit Meeting

Minutes and reports read and approved. Corresponding Secretary, Sis. Kilian, shared information about the SVU Conference, June 27th through July 3rd, in Tabor Czechoslovakia. Inquired whether the bill for the Baltimore City's Post Office Box had been paid? Treasurer confirmed that the bill had been paid. Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organization's annual dues have arrived and the unit voted to pay the fee. Reminded members of available newsletters from other Sokol units that can be taken and read.

Education Director, Sis. Huber, questioned members about President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, since his birthday is celebrated in March, (3/7/1850). Members answered questions correctly. Pres. Rokos asked members what happened 20 years ago and then he critiqued Pres. Havel's speech to Congress in 1990. Members were invited to attend the Eastern District Meeting in Baltimore at 12 noon at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on Saturday, April 10, 2010.

Financial Secretary, Sis. Cahlander reported six members have not paid dues; and therefore, are no longer members. Donations from members are truly appreciated. Sis. Cahlander brought a delicious strawberry cake from her birthday celebration and the members enjoyed being included in this happy event.

Sis. Renee Harrison, Director of the Board Instructors, gave her report. The gym is in the process of having a Joe Corbi fundraiser. Sis. Renee inquired about the Youth Program and the \$5 fee per child. Since there are sessions that begin at different time periods and changes in the enrollment, the same student may only participate for 8 weeks during one of the three sessions. Renee will research the appropriate procedure to comply with the American Sokol Youth Program. Sokol Baltimore to pay the fee for the children enrolled in the Youth Program.

Angie Velez, who had been teaching the tots has moved to Texas. A new instructor is being sought to teach the Tot group which is held during the day. There are about 80 active gymnasts and a waiting list of the others. An ad for a coach has been posted to form more classes. The Spring Session begins April 13 and goes to June 26. Adult gym has had better attendance recently.

Discussed having gymnastic activities between Sokol Washington and Sokol Baltimore. It was suggested a May Exhibition and a family style dinner for Sokol Baltimore's gymnasts and their families. All possibilities to be investigated and determined.

Notes About Members

Holiday greetings were received from Bro. Joe Shimek. Sis. Ruth Bata's brother passed away in March. Ruth and Bo were out of town until March 15th. Condolences to Ruth and Bo. Also, please take care of your health. Bro. Jerry F. Valčík's wife Vlasta, passed away on 3/24/10. Obituary included in newsletter. Bro. Will Kool's grandmother, Alice Kool, passed away on 3/31/10. Brothers Slavoj and Alex Vanicky lost their mother, Jarmila Vanická on 2/1/10. Sokol sisters and brothers extend our heartfelt sympathy to all the families who have lost a loved one. Members keep in touch and let us hear from you. We think of you and wonder how you are doing.

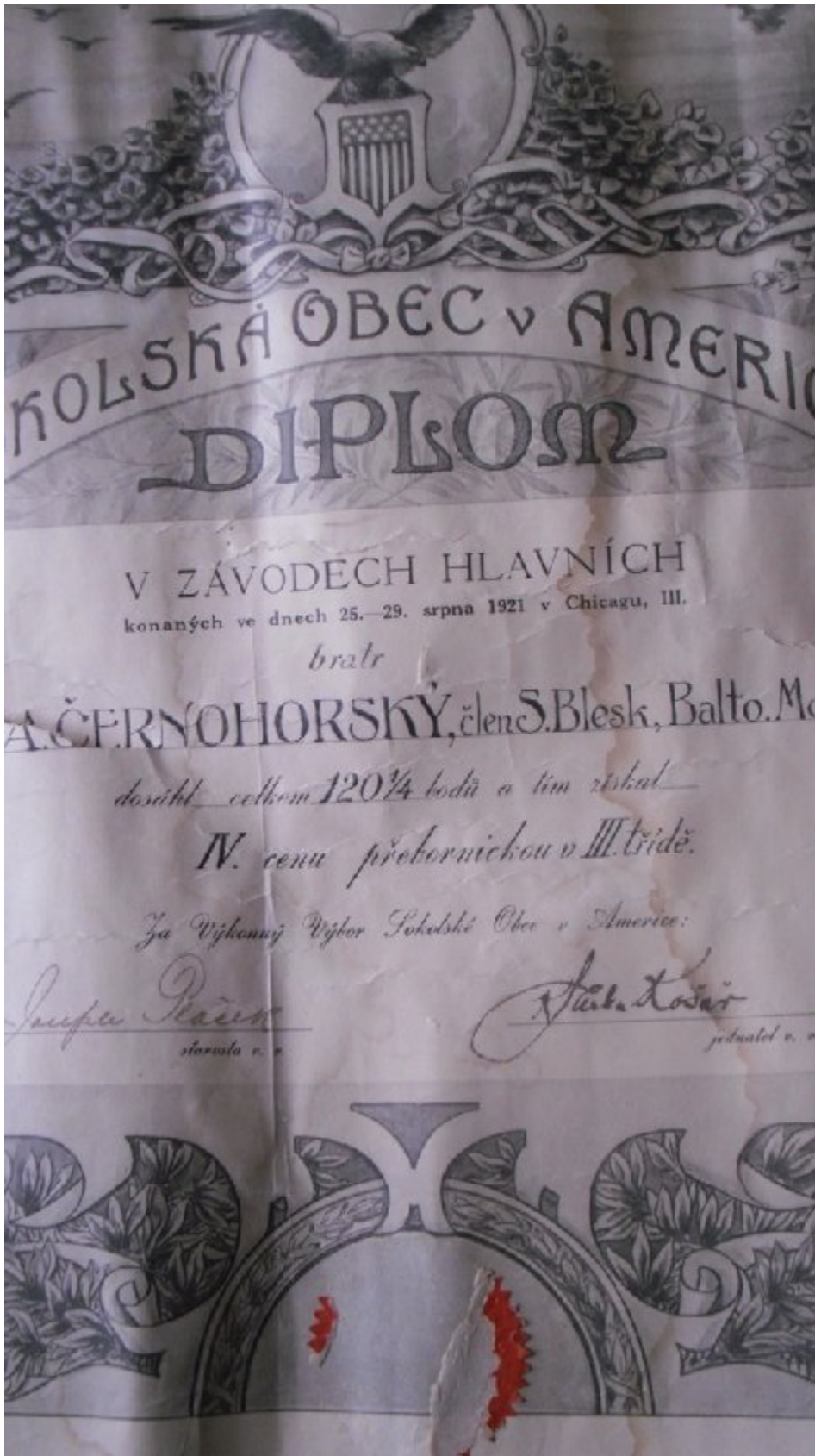
Vlasta Pavelková Valčík

The wife of Bro. Jerry Valčík, passed away on Friday, March 24, 2010, at the age of 90. She was born in Kvacíce, Czechoslovakia. She was a resident of Harford County since 1939 and had worked as a secretary at Bata Shoe Company for 18 years, including six years at the Czechoslovakia operation. She was a member, since 1940, of Francis de Sales Catholic Church where she had served as secretary. She had also been in Sokol since she was 10 years old. She raised three children: Jerry A. Valčík of Ormond Beach, FL; Alma V. McComas of Abingdon, MD; Sidney Valčík, deceased. She had six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Vlasta volunteered at the Red Cross where she felt an affiliation since WWII when Red Cross helped her locate her family in Czechoslovakia. Friends were able to visit on Sunday 3/28/10 at the McComas Funeral Home in Abingdon. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Abingdon, MD, on 3/29/10. Interment was in Cokesbury United Methodist Church Cemetery in Abingdon.

The **Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International** is holding its 2010 symposium, "They Came to the Heartland" in Lincoln Nebraska April 30 to May 1, 2010. If you have questions; www.cgsi.org.

"A History Mystery"

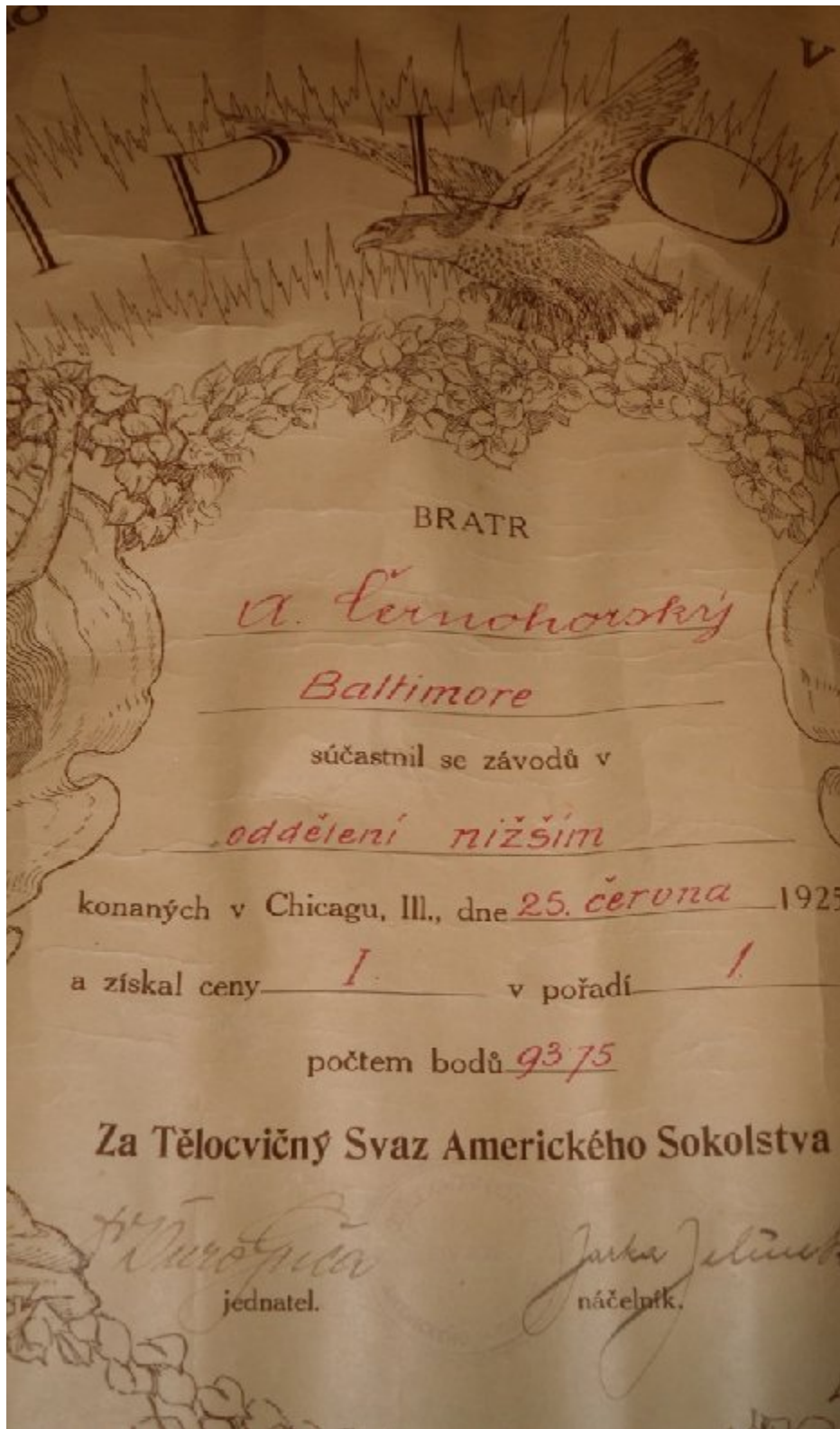
Our history and culture is very important to most of us individually, but vitally important to us as an organization as well. Sokol Baltimore has a mystery that perhaps you can help us solve. A gentleman in



Baltimore recently contacted us through our website, www.sokolbaltimore.org. He said he found these diplomas (reference photos provided) earned by a person named A. Cernohorsky in 1921 & 1925. The finding person is not related to the Cernohorsky family, nor was he ever a Sokol member. Since finding these documents he has become interested in finding out more about Sokol and what these documents mean. I am also very interested to find out more about these diplomas as well. He gave us permission to publish the photos in the hopes that someone may be able to provide more clues as to the nature of the documents, their original owner, and its importance. Even a simple translation would be helpful. What makes this case particularly interesting is that this gentleman who now has possession of the diplomas apparently found them hidden in a wall in his home. Why might that be? I can only wonder.

Please send any information to: info@sokolbaltimore.com
Or, if you prefer, contact William Kool - VP, Sokol Baltimore:
748 McHenry St, Baltimore, MD 21230
402-213-7969

We will keep you updated on our progress of solving this mystery by posting what we learn in a future edition of the Sokoletter.



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.

A Genealogical's View of Czech Family Names

By: Miroslav Koudelka – Naše Rodina March 2010

Family names have not had a long history. Originally people had just one name (first or forename). To be more precise, they added the father's name; i.e., Simon son of Jonah. Nobility started using epithets such as Richard the Lionheart, Charles the Great. The name of the place of origin was used as the family name; i.e., Rudolph of Habsburg, George of Poděbrady. On November 1, 1786 an edict issued by Emperor Joseph II established that surnames were hereditary and unchangeable, every child was supposed to get the last name of the father and wife's last name to be her husband's last name.

In many languages the surname was the father's given name: Son of Peter became Peterson; son of John became Johnson. In Czech some surnames formed by using diminutive suffixes such as -ek, -ec, -eček, -ka, -ik, -iček. The young Jan could be: Janek, Janeček, Janečka, Janka. Some surnames adopted the possessive suffix -ův or -ových; (Janův, Janových) then shortened to Janů, etc. Some families adopted Christian Saints name's for surnames. Tomáš became Tomášek, Tomek, Tomeček, Tuma or Marek became Mareček, Mareš, Marko.

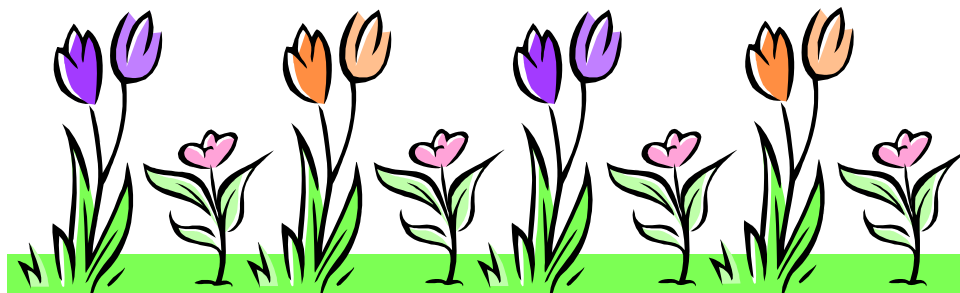
Surnames were derived from professional/social statuses; examples: Kovář – blacksmith, Krejčí – tailor, Švec – shoemaker, Svoboda – free man, Kolář – wheeler, Dvořák – free owner. Surnames referred to the place of origin (village, country, or region): from Prague was called Pražák; from Germany (Nemec); from Poland (Polak); from Bavaria (Bavor). Names after geographical locations: Kopecký (kopec=hill); Dolejší (dole=down).

Subject of surnames were nouns derived from house signs (used to mark the house before 1771) Mr. Anděl (house of the angel). If the people were new to the area, their name was (Noviny, Novák, Novorný). Surnames from distinguishing features are: short=Malý, tall=Dlouhý, fat or big=tlustý, black haired=Černý, bald or bare=Holý. Surnames were formed by the individual's temperament or behavior: Šťastný = happy, Pokorný = humble, Veselý = merry, Otčenášek = pious. Surnames that were derived from nature; Růžička = rose or pink cheeked; Motejl = butterfly or handsome; Fiala = violet. Inanimate objects and phenomena became sources for surnames: Skála = rock, hard or high-principled?; Hora = mountain; Větr = wind or fast moving?. Names came from verbs and usually end in (L): Musil = he had to; Chladil = he cooled; Pospíšil = he hurried. A special group of surnames were adopted from foreign languages, mainly German; and then Czechicized: Schmidt/Šmid (Smith), Schuster/Šustr (shoemaker), Bayer/Pajer (Bavarian), Hůbel/Hýbl (hillock), etc.

In the late 18th Century, the Czech Lands belonged to the Austrian Empire, and the German language was official. Czech language disappeared and many a Czech name was Germanized such as: Ošťádal, was recorded as Oschtíadal on official documents. After WWII Czech people no longer wanted their names to look German: Schmidt to Kovář and Schwarz to Černý. Name variations are challenging for genealogists, who are searching for a name spelled on immigration papers, another way on documents and so on. These same issues occurred in the Slovak language surnames = Hungarian influence, as well as, all the other variations. Foreign surnames came into the area and became established as well. The article continues with the history of Jewish surnames. Since our newsletter has limited space, you can read the article in Naše Rodina, March 2010 issue.

Addendum:

A well known Czech patriot, Friedrich Emanuel Tirsch Czechicized his German looking name to: Miroslav Tyrš. You should recognize this name as the founder of Sokol in 1862.





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DATED MATERIAL



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