



SOKOLETTER

P.O. Box 448
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MAY 2010

www.sokolbaltimore.org

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

UNIT MEETING
MONDAY, May 17, 2010
Meeting at 6:30 pm
St. Margaret's
Episcopal Church
1834 E. Joppa Road

Donations to Sokoletter

Ann & Frank Huber

Donations to Building Fund

Rose Krajca

Happy May Birthday!

- May 3rd – Irene Vincent
- May 3rd – Bohumil Zajicek
- May 6th – Philip Strayer
- May 13th – Wayne Koscinski
- May 15th – John Vrzalik
- May 16th – Joseph Ehrenberger
- May 17th – Sharyn Rhodes Pokorny
- May 24th – Bohus Bata
- May 24th – Kate Ehrenberger
- May 30th – Nancy Armiger
- May 31st – Josef Kokes

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS:

Monday, May 10, 2010 – Sokol Baltimore Board of Directors Meeting. 4:00 pm @ President Michael Rokos' house, 2203 Mayfield Avenue.

Monday, May 31, 2010 – Memorial Day Observance at the Bohemian National Cemetery, 11:00 am. The Czech Embassy will be represented. Also Sokols, CSHA, and cemetery officials.

Donations to Sokol Baltimore

Marie Pokorny
Kristen Cahlander

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Nominating Committee

Marie Pokorny, Anci 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 2010-2011 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.

Highlights from Sokol Baltimore's April 19th Unit Meeting

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Bro. Colonel Joseph Shimek, who passed away on 4/4/10. Sister Kilian was absent because her home was burglarized and she was home trying to take care of things. The home invasion occurred while Sis. Kilian was at the Bohemian National Cemetery on Sunday 4/18. Pres. Rokos collected the mail and correspondence.

Pres. Rokos reported the events at the Board of Directors' Meeting 4/18/10. An increase in salary for the Physical Director of the gym, Renee Harrison, was proposed. She will receive \$12 per hour and an additional coverage of all

her accumulated telephone expenses because of Sokol gymnastic activities. Pres Rokos spoke to Br. Ron Zoubek and Bro. Otenasek's donation will be settled after repairs to and selling of Bro. Otenasek's home.

Pres. Rokos informed the membership of his decision to not attend the convention and he did not designate a delegate to represent Sokol Baltimore. This was followed by much discussion and the members were able to share their thoughts and concerns. Members presented suggestions for Sokol Baltimore's future and ideas on how American Sokol could help the units; i.e. universal injury insurance for gymnasts, a lower cost for bulk purchased uniforms, safety and judging certification. Br. Cahlander reminded us that at one time Sokol Baltimore had its own 501(c) 3 number and we have our own charter in compliance with the State of Maryland.

Treasurer's report given by Bro. Askew and was accepted.

Sis. Renee Harrison reported there are 57 gymnasts registered. The gym's spring session registration is always low because of competition with spring and summer sports' activities. "Joe Corbi's Fundraiser" has to be completed and the results can then be given at the May unit meeting. Sis Harrison requested monies so that 5 – 6 gymnastic instructors can be CPR and First Aid certified (cost @ \$60 per person). She also would like to purchase current gymnastic routines amounting to \$35. These requests were approved by all unit members. Br. Lund requested something like "cubbies" for gymnasts to place their shoes and clothing instead of piling them on the floor. It was suggested that Bro. Lund look into the cost of "cubbies".

Sis. Huber gave a brief report from the Eastern District Meeting. All the units in the Eastern District were represented and Bro. Rokos hosted a delicious catered lunch and gave gifts to the various units. Sis. Huber thanked Sis. Pokorny for her baked items. It was a productive meeting and the next annual Eastern District Meeting will be in New York on 9/25/10.

Educational Director reported on the Olympic Men's Figure Skating Champion, Evan F. Lysaček, and his Czech background. Sis. Pokorny shared that Jake Pavelka from the "Bachelor TV Show" is of Slovak heritage. Both men are on "Dancing With The Stars" on ABC; members were encouraged to watch the program and vote for Jake and Evan.

A Nominating Committee of Sisters Marie Pokorny and Anči Huber and Bro. Frank Huber was selected. They will present a slate for 2010 – 2011 officers for Sokol Baltimore.

Bro. Lund reminded members that 2012 will be Sokol Baltimore's 140th Year Anniversary and the unit should start planning. The next unit meeting will be 5/17 at 6:30 PM at St. Margaret's Church and the Board of Directors' Meeting is scheduled 5/10 at 4 PM at Michael's home. The June 21st Unit Meeting at St. Margaret's Church will be a cookout/covered dish get together. Sokol is to provide hamburgers and hot dogs. After the meeting members enjoyed desserts and watched the Karel Hasler Documentary "The Immortal Balladeer of Prague". Karel Hasler was an actor, song writer and singer. He wrote the famous song "Česka Pisnička" as well as many songs. His son, Tom Hasler, spent years with great effort to make a documentary of Karel Hasler. Under German control the Czech National Anthem could not be sung in Czechoslovakia so Česka Pisnička became the song of unity for the Czech people. Because of Karel's activities, he was considered a threat to the German Government and Karel was arrested and died at the Mauthausen concentration camp.

News about Members

CONGRATULATIONS – **Sis. Sarah C. Pokorny** married Peter F. Dorman on April 24, 2010 at the downtown Assumption of Mary Catholic Basilica. Sis. Sarah had a beautiful wedding. She had a Maid of Honor, 4 Bridesmaids, and a Junior Bridesmaid. Peter's brother was his Best Man. The reception was held at the Mt. Vernon Club on Mt. Vernon Square. It is an attractive facility and Mt. Vernon Club catered delicious food. There were about 125 people in attendance. The couple is going to Europe for their three week honeymoon. They plan to go to Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy and the Mediterranean area. Sis. Sarah had been an exchange student in Oldenburg, Germany and this may be her 3rd European trip. Sis. Sarah is Sis. Marie Pokorny's granddaughter and Sarah's parents are Rick and Cathy Pokorny.

In Memoriam

I am sorry to inform the members that Sokol Baltimore lost another dear member, **Bro. Colonel Joseph F. Shimek, Jr.**, who passed away on April 4, 2010 after a courageous battle with cancer. Remember in the March 2009 and April 2009, Bro. Shimek's written biography of his Great Uncle Vaclav Joseph Shimek (Šimek). Vaclav J. Shimek was the owner of Shimek (Šimek) Bohemian Hall on Broadway. Šimek was president of Sokol Jednota Blesk over six times and was instrumental in forming the National Sokol Organization. The National Sokol Convention was held in 1882 at Šimek Hall; at that time there was only the Eastern and Western Districts.

Bro. Col. Shimek was born on January 6, 1929 in Baltimore City, Maryland. He lived on Milton Avenue and attended St. Wenceslaus parochial school for 8 years. He continued to support St. Wenceslaus Church through the years. Joe attended Calvert Hall at downtown Baltimore. From there Joe attended the University of Maryland and was in the ROTC Program. Bro. Joe enlisted for 2 years and was stationed in the states and Japan. Somewhere in his work history he was employed at Black and Decker in Towson for two years. He was at Andrew's AFB with the Department of Defense and became Director of Transportation until he retired after a total of 30 years. He was then employed as a civilian in the government.

Bro. Joe married Elizabeth M. Kirschke "Betty" and they celebrated 55 years of marriage. Together they had Mary Shimek Del Bianco, Joseph F. Shimek III, and Michele M. Shimek. Joe and Betty were blessed with six grandchildren. Betty shared how she and Joe were able to travel and enjoy life together. In the last 7-9 months Joe had been slowly getting worse. He put in a tough fight but the cancer won. Betty said that she was sorry Joe hadn't joined Sokol earlier. Ann Huber is sorry, also, because she and Joe hoped to go through Sokol Baltimore's archives. He was interested in the history concerning his Great Grandfather Josef Šimek and in all pictures and events that were held at Šimek Bohemian Hall and the Sokol Bohemian Hall on Gay and Preston Streets. Bro Joe had an inquiring mind and his family had been so involved in Baltimore and Sokol history. Our deepest sympathy to Betty and the family; he will be greatly missed. Nazdar!

EDUCATION

Gold Medal Figure Skating Winner

If you watched the Winter Olympic Figure Skating Men's Competition in Vancouver you must have seen the gold medal winner figure skating champion, Evan Lysacek, from Naperville, Illinois. In the April 2010 issue of the Czech and Slovak Sokol Minnesota newsletter, Slovo, there was an article about Evan and his Sokol roots. "Evan's grandmother, Eleanor, was a member of Sokol Berwyn, Illinois, and was a powerhouse for their volleyball team. There are plans for a parade in Naperville when Evan gets to come back to the area, and there will be a contingent of Sokol women present to cheer him." His grandmother gave him his first pair of skates at the age of eight. Grandmother, Eleanor had hopes once of being a performer ice skater. Evan has an older sister, Laura, and a younger sister, Christina. He trains in California.



American Friends of the Czech Republic's Newsletter had an article on Evan Frank Lysacek. Lysacek was the first American man to win the gold medal in 22 years. Lysacek is of Czech and Italian descent. Evan's great-grandfather, František Lysáček, emigrated from Czechoslovakia to Chicago in 1925. F. Lysáček came from the Moravian area of Brumov-Bylnice-Sidonie. Evan started skating at the age of eight and as of February 2010 is ranked first in the world.

One can see Evan Lysacek on Monday nights on ABC's "Dancing with The Stars." Watch the show and vote for Evan and Anna every Monday.



Also, the recent "Bachelor" show featured Jake Pavelka, a young man with apparent Slovak roots. His ethnicity must have been aired on the show. Jake was also on "Dancing with The Stars" and had been doing a super job but was voted off 4/26/10. What a shame, because he is so pleasant and good looking. Watch the competition on "Dancing with the Stars"; it is tough and the dancers are well toned athletes.

Anton Černohorsky

In the April 2010 Sokoletter two diplomas of Anton Cernohorsky were found. So many members and outsiders have given me a great deal of information. I would especially like to thank Bro. Anton Primus for his efforts to research and write an article (section under this heading). Also, I appreciate the extensive recovery of data by the Genealogy Board of CSPS (Česko Slovanska Podporující Společnost) of Baltimore City.

Anton Joseph Cernohorsky was born October 4, 1898 in Baltimore in a home on Carlisle Place according to the 1900 Census. His parents: Anton Joseph Cernohorsky was born in Celakovice, Bohemia and Rosalie Smolik was born in Ostrov, Bohemia. Anton's parents had 7 children and only 4 lived to adulthood. Anton (aka Anthony - Tony) was the youngest of the seven. Anton's parents and three siblings are buried in the Bohemian National Cemetery.

On the 9/12/15 draft registration, Anton at 19 years old was living on Bradford Street. Anton married Amelia Barbara Slechta on 2/16/20 at St. Wenceslaus Roman Catholic Church. They had two children: Antoinette Amelia Cernohorsky and Anthony Stanley Cernohorsky. Later the family moved to Middle River and they had a nice home with a pier on the water.

Bro. John Cervin called Sis. Anci Huber and reminded her they met Mr. Cernohorsky in the late 1950's. Anci's friend, Larry Chamberlain had his boat moored there. John and Larry were going to rebuild an old sailboat. Sis. Bernie Chamberlain Wittman remembered Anton. Bernie called him Mr. Černý but she thought his name started with an "S". Mr. Cernohorsky enjoyed sharing stories about Sokol, John's and Anci's Dad, and the good old days. Anton lived on the water in Middle River until he died 9/2/70. He was buried at Gardens of Faith Cemetery, Baltimore, MD.

Anci remembers a large picture of an early Sokol Team with the names penciled on the back of the photo. Anton is with Frank and Al Mentlik who are Sis. Marie Pokorny's father and uncle.

From Brother Anton Primus, I Received the Following Information:

Hi Anci:

I received my mail the Sokoletter on April 10, 2010. The letter was very interesting and the article on family names was very good. The photos of the two diplomas are very interesting and I will try to inform you what I know. The first diploma is from Slet #1 in 1921. The title on the diploma is Sokol of America. The gymnastic main competition was held on August 25 – 29 in 1921 at Chicago, Illinois. This diploma was given to Brother Anton Cernohorsky for his high marks of 120¼ points. It appears to me that he placed Fourth in Championship Class III.

It should be noted for a long time no medals were given at Sokol competitions only diplomas. Because I cannot speak or read Czech, please translate the diploma to see if you can change or add to the above. The following Sokol Jednota Blesk class of men was sent to Slet #1 in 1921: M. Zavadil, R. Primus, Fr. Hajek, Al. Mentlik, Ant. Cernohorsky, Fr. Mentlik.

The second diploma was from Slet #2 in 1925. The title of the diploma is from Tělocvičný Svaz Amerického Sokolstva (Gymnastic Union of American Sokol). Slet #2 was held on June 25, 1925 in Chicago, Illinois. The diploma was given to Brother Anton Cernohorsky for his high marks of 93.75 points. His place on the gymnastic competition I can not comment on because I cannot read what is written. Translate the diploma to see if you can change or add to the above. *Bro. Bo Bata translated "Anton competed in low division and came in first."* The following Sokol Jednota Blesk class of men was sent to Slet #2 in 1925: J. Cervin, R. Primus, Aug. Taborsky, Jan Hulla, Ant. Cernohorsky, W. Kolomaznik.

Hope this information will help.

Tony Primus

Semi-Annual Eastern District Meeting



The Eastern District Meeting was held 4/10/10 at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church where Sokol Baltimore holds its unit meetings. Prior to the meeting a delicious catered lunch was served and was organized by Pres. Rokos and Sis. Pokorny baked several items for dessert. Twenty-one members were present and represented Sokol units from New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Washington and Baltimore. A moment of silence was observed for a former Eastern District President, Bro. Donald Otenasek. Pres. Bro. Bo Bata reported on the Board of Governors' meeting and the Strategic Planning Task Force that was formed at the 2005 Convention to find problems with the organization. There was much discussion about the proposed Organization Development Team's plans. The Strategic Planning Task Force has put out a great deal of effort and some of the program suggestions have been helpful. It was noted the units need autonomy locally to present programs so that the members will get involved. Sis Zabka, President of Sokol New York informed the group that Sis. Ellen Nyemcsik received the Life Time Achievement Award from the USA Gymnastic Federation and she is now listed in the Gymnastic Hall of Fame. Ellen Garlicke Nyemcsik competed, taught and judged rhythmic gymnastics. The next Eastern District Annual Meeting will be held 9/25/10 at 12 PM at Sokol New York.

American Sokol 2010 Convention Documents

Many reports in electronic form from the American Sokol officers and committees that were presented at the convention are available from headquarters. They include reports from the Treasurer, Administrative National Office, Public Relations, Membership, the Implementation Team, President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Board of Instructors, and the Strategic Planning Team. If you do not have a computer the editors of the Sokoletter will gladly print a copy of any reports for you.

New Officers Selected at the American Sokol Convention Held in Omaha, Nebraska – April 2010

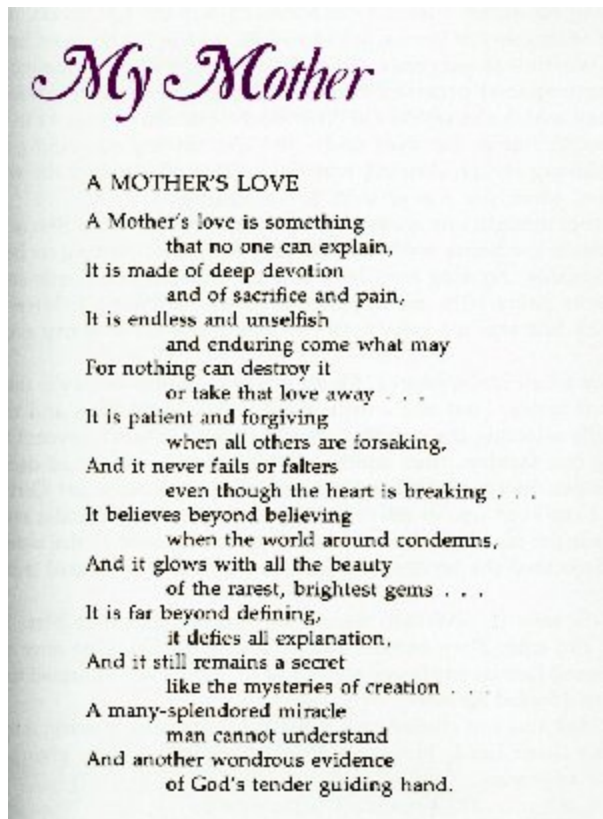
President: Tom Pajer
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 Membership Director: Lori Laznovsky
 Editor: Angela Hartford

MOTHERS DAY - 2010



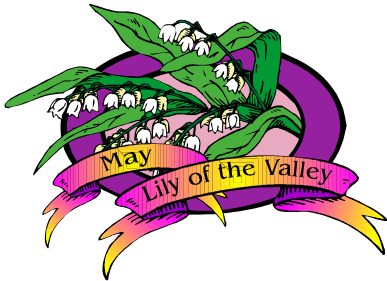
Let us not forget the second Sunday of May and the observance of Mothers Day. The poem "My Mother" was written by Helen Steiner Rice. She wrote "I was blessed with a loving mother who made me feel like the most special girl in the world".





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DATED MATERIAL



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