



The mission of the American Sokol is to provide fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural and social programs.



Miroslav Trejtnar at work in Prague



Jitka and Jarda in Cedar Rapids, IA

Jitka and Jarda - Sokol Minnesota's Czech Puppets took a trip to the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library earlier in 2007

This original exhibit captured the magic of the timeless art form of puppetry. From traveling troupes to professional theaters, the history of puppetry is found in the Czech and Slovak lands. From the late 18th through 19th centuries, puppetry was the only form of theater that traveled and performed in small villages. Puppetry perpetuated the Czech language and folk traditions, helped give rise to national awareness, and sometimes was even used to mock government authorities. These early traditions gave rise to puppetry as a legitimate professional art form in the Czech and Slovak lands today.

Meet some famous Czech puppeteers on page 14.

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ASO Executive Board meets every 4th Tuesday at 7:30 PM
(except July/Aug).

ASO Board of Instructors meets every 2nd Wednesday at 7:30 PM
(except July/Aug).

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

4	Sokol MN – Fruit Dumpling Class
8	Columbus Day
13	Sokol New York – 140 th Anniversary Celebration
13	Sokol MN Harvest Dance
20	Sokol San Francisco Independence Dinner/Dance
27/28	Sokol Spirit Rummage & Bake Sale
28	Den vzniku samostatneho ceskoslovenskeho statu - 1918 (Czech Independence Day)
28	Sokol MN Pork Dinner
31	Halloween

NOVEMBER

1	All Saint's Day
2	Day of Souls
11	Veteran's Day
12	Veteran's Day Observed
15	Sokol MN – Goulash Class
17	Sokol Spirit Spaghetti Dinner
17	Den boje studentu za svobodu a demokracii (Students' fight for freedom and democracy – 1939 and 1989 – Velvet Revolution)
18	Sokol MN Pancake Breakfast & Craft Sale
22	Thanksgiving Day
30	Sokol MN Annual Meeting

DECEMBER

7	Sokol MN Svaty Mikalas Children's Party
8	Sokol San Francisco Annual Mtg & St. Nicholas Party
8	Sokol Stickney Spaghetti Dinner
9	Sokol MN Membership Christmas Party
24	Štědrý den (Christmas Eve)
25	1. svátek vánoční (Christmas)
26	2. svátek vánoční (St. Stephen's Day)
30	Sokol San Francisco End of Year Dinner/Dance
31	New Year's Eve

Send your Events to
Editor@American-Sokol.org
or add them to the Calendar at
www.American-Sokol.org

The mission of the American Sokol is to provide fitness and community for individuals and families through physical, educational, cultural and social programs.

From the President...

Bro. Larry Laznovsky

In July, five American Sokol members took part in the 13th World Gymnaestrada in Dornbirn, Austria. We were part of the 385 participants from the USA. The group included; Brother Kevin Fitzpatrick of Sokol Greater Cleveland and Sister Lori Laznovsky of Sokol KHB Ennis who were on the USAG Staff and helped coordinate USA participation, Sister Lil Laznovsky, Sister Barb Vondra and I also attended serving as volunteers.

The event featured 22,000 participants from 57 countries. The Czech Republic had 600 participants of which 250 were COS members. Brother Kevin performed with the COS Men in two large group performances of the Men's 2006 Slet Cal. He was the highest flyer of all. This was the first World Gymnaestrada that had an all men's number in the large group performances. There is no competition, just performances, which included over 200 performances every day for 5 days!

The USA group was represented by participants from all over the United States including a group from Anchorage, Alaska. We stayed in several hotels and in a school in the town of Bregenz which is about 15 miles from Dornbirn. Bregenz is on the banks of Lake Constance, the fifth largest lake in Europe. Transportation by train and bus was a challenge for us seniors with mobility problems traveling back and forth from the venues to the hotel.

The colorful spectacular event is truly a site to behold. For those of you with access to the internet, check out the event at www.wg2007.com!

Nazdar!

Bro. Larry Laznovsky



Sis. Barb and Sis. Lil enjoying a view of the Alps.



Sis. Lori and Bro. Larry awaiting the March in for the soggy Opening Ceremony.



Bro Kevin and Bro Miroslav Vrana(COS Director of Men)





The Sokol Educator

Sis. EllenJeanne Schnabl, Educational Director

From a Sokol South Omaha newsletter and from Bro. Wm. Shana of Sokol St. Louis:

In the 14th Century, Bohemia & Slovakia became a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Czechoslovakia was proclaimed a Republic on October 28, 1918, after the first World War. This date is still celebrated by all Czechs, Slovaks and Moravians. In July, 1992, a basic plan for a peaceful division of Czechoslovakia into two independent states, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic was formed. For more details check out the Nations of the World Almanac & Book of Facts, of 1997.

Oktoberfest is a grand tradition that marks its 197th year in 2007. According to legend, it started in 1810 when Ludwig I, the crown prince of Bavaria was to celebrate his wedding to Princess Therese in Munich. He commissioned the Hacker-Pschorr brewmaster to develop a new style of beer. It was so delicious that the party didn't end until 16 days later. Oktoberfest beers usually are light amber-colored or dark orange and cloudy.

October 8, 1871 - Everyone knows about the Chicago fire. Check your smoke detectors. BUT at the same time, in Northeast Wisconsin, the Peshtigo Fire was the most devastating forest fire in American history, claiming 1200 lives. It scorched 1.2 million acres and the damage estimate was at \$169 million, about the same as for the Chicago Fire.

Oct. 12, 1892 - reciting the Pledge of Allegiance is first required in schools

Oct. 12, 1492 -Columbus Day - to be observed on the 8th. However, in accordance with our present revised Gregorian calendar, introduced 90 years after the discovery of America -- the true date is October 21st.

Oct. 16th - Dictionary Day in honor of Noah Webster.



Oct. 31st - Halloween - festivities can be traced to ancient pagan rituals. In the old Celtic calendar, it was the last day of the year. The Druids of ancient Britain regarded the cat as sacred. In Ireland, groups of masked revelers went from farm to farm collecting ingredients for a celebration honoring Muck Olla. This fictitious character would "treat" the generous giver and "trick" the miser in many ways.

By the way: Watch your own calendar because on Sunday, November 4th, Daylight Savings

Time ends - and you get an extra hour of sleep.

NAZDAR ! EllenJeanne Schnabl, American Sokol Educational Director



Sokol Greater Cleveland Members March in Memorial Day Parade

As a young boy, my father and grandfather would take me there for the parade. Anton Blazek Post was named after an 18 year-old soldier from the Broadway and East 55th Street area. He was the first Czech-American soldier from Cleveland killed in the First World War. In 1923 the Post was founded and a marching band was formed.



For the past 49 years, I have played drums in the Memorial Day Parade. For the first 30 years, the parade would gather at the Anton Blazek Post. From there, we would march to the Memorial Island at East 55th and Hamm Ave., which is in front of one of our oldest Czech churches – Lady of Lourdes. We would then raise the American Flag and play Taps. Then, it was a 5 mile march to Calvary Cemetery, where hundreds of people would line the streets.

Due to the change in demographics and the passing of many men and women that were active at the Post, the Post closed in 1987.

For the past 19 years, we marched in Maple Heights (OH), representing the American Legion Post 309. As the parade came down Libby Road, past Sister Georgia Jencik's house, the band would play Koline Koline for her and her late mother.

If all goes well, I will give it one more year to make it 50 years and out. My two sons, Russ and Todd, joined the band upon graduating from high school, 1985 and 1988, respectively.

Sokol members of the band are Nada, Gretchen and Heidi Vencl, Lou Huml, Tim Krachko, and Noreen Anannea. Friends of Sokol are Don Hunt, John Prochazka, Rick Reinecker, Bob and Kevin Westbrook, Mike Montgomery, Nick Zevchek and Sharon Dusek.

It's been an honor.
Nazdar – John Dusek



John Dusek looks forward to 50 years in the parade.

Czechs Hit the Streets of Pamona

From Sokol Notes (Sokol LA), Eva Riesner

We (Sokol LA) received an invitation from the County of Los Angeles Office of Protocol to participate in the LA County Fair 2007 Parade of Nations to showcase our ethnic background. We were recommended by The Honorable Daniel Kumermann, Consul General of the Czech Republic, who said (Sokol Los Angeles) is "the only group he knows of that might still have some full and wearable national costumes and who might be able to represent the Czech Republic in the parade.

On Sunday, Sept. 9th, five Czechs walked in the LA County Fair International Parade dressed in Moravian and Bohemian attire. Andre Riesner carried the Czech flag



From left: Susie Riesner, Michael Riesner, Annette Gathright, Eva Riesner & Andre Riesner

that once waved over the LA Coliseum in the 1984 Olympic games held there. Annette Gathright from the Czech Heritage Club wore a Bohemian costume from the Prague region. Susie and Eva Riesner wore Kyjov costumes and Michael and Andre Riesner wore Kunovice from the Moravian region. Shouting and waving "At žijí Češi", "Nazdar", and if the audience didn't respond, Eva said "Pilsner beer". That got a smile!

THREE GENERATIONS ON SOKOL DETROIT'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM



We all know that Sokol is a multi-generational organization and we often have two generations competing or doing calisthenics together. Sometimes we even have three generations doing cal.

But how often do we have three generation on the same volleyball team? Well, Sokol Detroit did in Pittsburgh. Although we didn't win our team did make it to the playoffs.

The three generations include: Maryann Fiordelis (who happens to be a third generation Sokol), her daughter, Teresa Simonds (who coached the volleyball team and is also one of our junior girls coaches) and her daughter, Shelby Simonds. Teresa and Shelby also competed together in Level 3 artistics and Maryann participated in the Fitness Challenge.



Now of course three people do not make a team. So let me introduce you to our other team members: Junior Girls – Sarah Harper, Jana Layman, Clare and Bridget O'Reilly and Cara Tuskey. Women - Lynn Conrad, Mary Cushing, Jenna Lande and Lisa Tague.

Nazdar,
Maryann Fiordelis
Sokol Detroit Women's Physical Co-Director

Congratulations to Jean Hruby, ASO, and her family on the recognition of her father in the re-naming of Ridgeland Commons in Oak Park to the **PAUL HRUBY ICE ARENA** on Sept. 29, 2007. Paul Hruby has dedicated his whole life to amateur hockey in Chicago and has had a positive impact on the thousands of children he has taught, many of which are now in their 50's! He has worked with many well-known professional hockey players and taught their children as well. The Hruby's have every right to be proud of Paul's accomplishments and to be proud that his name – *a Czech name no less* – will be permanently remembered on this building. Thank you Jean for sharing this wonderful, exciting news with us.

Originally in the Sept. 2007 Issue of Sokol LA's Sokol Notes



Sr. Women – Sokol Ft. Worth
Rhythmic number with ribbons performed at the Southern District Slet in West, TX in June.

You go girls!

Submitted by Libbie Vrla

AMERICAN SOKOL GYMNAST

Pages 7-10 are specifically designed to be a benefit to the Gymnastics programs of American Sokol.

Please pull, copy and distribute to your participants as you see fit.

Kandi Pajer – 117 Oakland Grove – Elmhurst, IL 60126

KandiPajer@American-Sokol.org

SOKOLFEST XXV

American Sokol Results Only - 1st thru 3rd place

Women/Girls Artistic Gymnastic Results

LEVEL	AGE GROUP	UNIT	First Name	Last Name	Vault	Bars	Beam	Floor	AA	Place
F0	10 TO 12	DETROIT	JOANA	ALDRICH	7.70	6.00	9.25	7.00	29.95	1
F1	9 & UNDER	GR CLEVELAND	JULIE	THOMPSON	7.50	8.80	9.55	9.30	35.15	1
		GR CLEVELAND	MEGHAN	BOWDEN	7.10	8.60	8.75	9.10	33.55	3
	10 TO 12	GR CLEVELAND	JADA	FRYE	7.70	7.60	8.65	8.80	32.75	1
		TABOR	BAYLEE	HUSSAIN	8.40	6.00	9.20	8.90	32.50	2
	12 TO 14	DETROIT	ALANA	HEADE	8.10	6.20	8.70	8.60	31.60	1
F2	9 & UNDER	CRETE	WENDI	HAUFLE	8.30	8.30	9.00	9.45	35.05	1
		CRETE	EMERSON	ANDELT	8.10	8.20	8.55	9.40	34.25	3
	12 TO 14	DETROIT	SARA	HARPER	8.40	7.10	9.50	9.40	34.40	2
		DETROIT	ARIANA	HEADE	8.60	7.40	8.05	8.50	32.55	3
	25 TO 34	TABOR	JULIE	MILLER	8.80	8.70	8.80	9.30	35.60	1
F3	9 & UNDER	GR CLEVELAND	ASHLEY	THOMPSON	7.90	8.20	9.50	9.00	34.60	1
		CRETE	JENNIFER	KUNCL	8.70	8.35	8.75	8.10	33.90	2
	10 TO 12	GR CLEVELAND	ELIZABETH	PAOLETTA	8.20	7.80	8.30	8.80	33.10	3
		CRETE	ALEXANDRA	HEWITT	8.60	9.10	8.70	9.20	35.60	1
	12 TO 14	CRETE	AMANDA	GOSSELIN	8.90	8.70	9.10	8.70	35.40	1
		SPIRIT	ALIX	WILT	9.10	7.20	9.40	8.60	34.30	2
	25 TO 34	GR CLEVELAND	MONICA	SCHNEE	9.30	8.00	9.45	8.40	35.15	1
		GR CLEVELAND	ANGELA	WISE	8.40	9.00	8.80	8.00	34.20	2
	35 TO 49	DETROIT	LISA	TAGUE	9.20	9.20	9.55	9.45	37.40	1
		GR CLEVELAND	MICHELLE	JIROUSEK	9.00	8.90	9.70	8.20	35.80	3
50 & UP	GR CLEVELAND	CHYRAL	BECKA	8.10	6.40	9.00	7.00	30.50	1	
F4	10 TO 12	OMAHA	SARAH	SULLIVAN	8.50	7.20	8.60	7.30	31.60	2
		DETROIT	CECILIA	O'REILLY	8.30	7.00	8.00	8.00	31.30	3
	12 TO 14	SOUTH OMAHA	MACKENZIE	POHLMAN	9.00	8.70	9.40	8.40	35.50	1
		GR CLEVELAND	MICHELLE	MASON	8.70	8.60	8.70	8.80	34.80	2
	15 TO 18	SOUTH OMAHA	SKYE	WEIHE	8.70	9.30	8.90	7.60	34.50	3
		OMAHA	BRITTANY	COLLETT	8.90	7.10	8.60	8.70	33.30	2
	25 TO 34	GR CLEVELAND	GRETCHEN	VENCL	9.00	7.40	9.50	8.90	34.80	1
		GR CLEVELAND	JULIE	MEYER	9.30	8.10	8.30	7.40	33.10	3
F5	9 & UNDER	GR CLEVELAND	DAYNA	DENNER	8.00	6.20	7.50	7.40	29.10	1
	12 TO 14	GR CLEVELAND	CATHERINE	BALDNER	8.00	7.80	8.45	6.40	30.65	2
		GR CLEVELAND	KOURTNEY	SCHULTZ	8.00	8.50	8.20	6.00	30.70	1
	15 TO 18	GR CLEVELAND	ASHLEY	GLOVER	8.10	6.10	8.70	6.10	29.00	2
		CESKA SIN	HEATHER	ZAPPALA	8.00	8.10	7.90	4.80	28.80	3
	17 TO 24	GR CLEVELAND	KATHY	KAVAN	8.40	7.90	8.70	7.50	32.50	1
		GR CLEVELAND	SUZY	BURES	8.60	7.80	8.80	5.00	30.20	2
	25 TO 34	CESKA SIN	WILLOW	KOTLAN	8.00	8.10	8.60	7.50	32.20	2
		GR CLEVELAND	NOREEN	ANANEA	7.30	7.40	8.60	8.00	31.30	3
	35 TO 49	CESKA SIN	HEATHER	STEENSON	8.40	5.80	7.75	4.50	26.45	2

Continued on next page

LEVEL	AGE GROUP	UNIT	First Name	Last Name	Vault	Bars	Beam	Floor	AA	Place
F6	15 TO 18	GR CLEVELAND	ALYSSA	CARLOZZI	8.60	7.00	8.30	8.20	32.10	1
		GR CLEVELAND	JULIA	PINIZZOTTO	8.70	8.00	7.00	7.80	31.50	3
F7	10 TO 12	DETROIT	CATHERINE	CONRAD	8.90	9.70	9.50	9.30	37.40	1
	17 TO 24	DETROIT	JENNA	LANDE	9.30	8.30	8.60	9.40	35.60	1
		GR CLEVELAND	SARAH	DINDA	8.80	7.70	7.50	7.00	31.00	2
F8	15 TO 18	SOUTH OMAHA	KRISTINA	KURZ	8.80	8.00	8.20	8.60	33.60	1
		SOUTH OMAHA	KELSEY	RHOADES	8.60	7.00	8.10	8.00	31.70	2
	17 TO 24	SOUTH OMAHA	OLIVIA	RHOADES	8.30	7.80	7.60	7.80	31.50	3
		SOUTH OMAHA	CARLY	VINCENTINI	8.60	6.50	9.10	8.40	32.60	1

Men/Boys Gymnastic Results

LEVEL	AGE GROUP	ASO UNIT	FName	LName	Vault	P Bars	H Bar	Floor	Pom Horse	Rings	AA	Place
M2	9 & UNDER	CRETE	ZACHERY	MUFF	9.30	9.30	8.70	8.50	8.80	7.80	52.40	1
		TABOR	SEAN	HUSSAIN	8.10	7.95	7.80	8.70	7.80	8.80	49.15	2
	12 TO 14	GR CLEVELAND	LOGAN	ADAMS	8.50	7.65	7.80	7.00	7.90	8.60	47.45	3
		SPIRIT	JIMMY	HEDDERMAN	8.10	7.25	7.30	7.00	8.60	7.80	46.05	2
		OMAHA	DAVID	HAMILTON	8.70	8.80	7.50	8.00	8.50	8.80	50.30	1
M3	9 & UNDER	GR CLEVELAND	JOSEPH	MONNIN	8.90	8.70	7.00	8.00	9.20	8.50	50.30	1
		TABOR	THOMAS	MCGILL	8.50	8.75	7.50	8.40	8.50	8.40	50.05	2
	17 TO 24	GR CLEVELAND	JACOB	JIROUSEK	8.30	8.20	6.90	7.70	8.50	8.00	47.60	3
		OMAHA	SEAN	BUFFUM	9.50	8.40	8.70	8.10	9.00	9.20	52.90	1
		GR CLEVELAND	KARL	KOTLAN	9.50	9.40	7.00	8.80	9.00	9.20	52.90	1
M4	9 & UNDER	GR CLEVELAND	MAX	RADENKOV	8.35	7.35	7.55	7.35	7.55	7.85	46.00	1
		GR CLEVELAND	JARRETT	ADAMS	8.00	7.15	7.10	7.15	7.95	7.75	45.10	2
	12 TO 14	SPIRIT	MATTHEW	SANDERS	7.90	8.30	7.00	7.35	7.50	9.15	47.20	1
		CRETE	CHRIS	GOSSELIN	8.10	8.00	6.20	7.05	7.50	8.50	45.35	2
	17 TO 24	SPIRIT	ED	ZEMPICH	8.15	7.15	6.50	7.50	8.20	8.30	45.80	2
		STICKNEY	MICHAEL	DROPKA	7.70	7.95	7.65	8.00	7.70	8.70	47.70	1
	25 TO 34	SPIRIT	KEN	NAGLE	8.60	8.20	8.25	8.40	7.15	8.70	49.30	1
50 & UP	SPIRIT	JOHN	BAZATA	8.00	8.20	8.00	7.70	7.30	8.45	47.65	1	
M5	9 & UNDER	BALTIMORE	DREW	BAKER	8.00	6.50	7.50	6.65	6.00	6.85	41.50	1
		CRETE	BENJAMIN	MUFF	8.60	7.80	8.50	5.75	5.50	7.85	44.00	1
	12 TO 14	GR CLEVELAND	AARON	SHUTWAY	8.50	6.75	7.75	5.65	6.40	8.10	43.15	2
		SOUTH OMAHA	NICK	BUCHTA	8.15	7.85	7.65	4.90	6.75	7.85	43.15	3
	15 TO 18	BALTIMORE	JEREMIAH	JERKWICZ	7.90	5.30	6.50	6.25	5.20	5.80	36.95	3
	17 TO 24	OMAHA	BILLY	POWERS	9.25	9.10	8.90	7.40	8.90	8.15	51.70	2
M6	15 TO 18	TABOR	CHARLES	MALINA	8.25	5.65	6.45	5.30	5.55	6.15	37.35	2
	17 TO 24	SOUTH OMAHA	STEVEN	KOWALSKI	8.75	5.40	5.70	7.30	7.80	7.00	41.95	1
	25 TO 34	CHICAGOLAND	MATT	KOCEK	9.15	7.60	6.15	7.00	7.75	6.55	44.20	1
M7	12 TO 14	SOUTH OMAHA	TYLER	HAMILTON	9.40	7.55	6.85	8.55	7.10	7.50	46.95	1
M10	17 TO 24	SOUTH OMAHA	BOHUMIR	BENAK	7.20	6.85	5.80	6.50	6.45	6.10	38.90	1
		TABOR	KENNY	FRON JR.	7.00	5.10	6.30	7.30	5.70	5.90	37.30	2

Sokol Fest 2007

Basketball & Volleyball Results

3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

First Place Team ASO Tabor #1

Volleyball Tournament

Men's Volleyball

First Place Team	ASO Greater Cleveland
Second Place Team	Sokol USA Monessen, Lodge 47
Third Place Team	Sokol USA Chicago, Lodge 306

Women's Volleyball

First Place Team	ASO Ceska Sin
Second Place Team	ASO Greater Cleveland A
Third Place Team	ASO Greater Cleveland B

Sokol Fest 2007

Bowling Results

Non-Sanctioned Bowlers

Juniors 17 & Under					
Fitzpatrick, Ryan	Gr Cleveland	56	66	140	262
Kreinbrook, Desiree	Gr Cleveland	79	99	109	287
					549
Seniors 18 – 49					
Carlozzi, Kelly	Gr Cleveland	71	50	88	209
Cruz, Ann Marie	Gr Cleveland	120	108	85	313
Fitzpatrick, Ellie	Gr Cleveland	141	157	154	452
Mills, Paul	Gr Cleveland	151	127	199	477
					1451
Obrovac, Bob	Gr Cleveland	146	139	150	435
Venci, Gretchen	Gr Cleveland	125	106	99	330
Veverka, Brian	Gr Cleveland	145	166	184	495
Veverka, Sue	Gr Cleveland	151	147	165	463
					1723
Masters 50 & up					
Huml, Lou	Gr Cleveland	108	124	140	372
Jirousek, Edwin	Gr Cleveland	134	183	132	449
Treichel, Al	Gr Cleveland	130	116	159	405
Weiss, John	Gr Cleveland	168	149	168	485
					1711

Sokol Fest 2007

Fitness Challenge Results

Fname	Lname	Age Group	Gender	Unit/Org	Place
Drew	Baker	0-9	M	ASO Baltimore	1
Zachery	Muff	0-9	M	ASO Crete	2
Ryan	Chester	0-9	M	ASO Gr. Cleveland	3
Aaron	Shutway	10-14	M	ASO Gr. Cleveland	1
Benjamin	Muff	10-14	M	ASO Crete	2
Chris	Gosselin	10-14	M	ASO Crete	3
Mark	Beckerman	17-24	M	ASO Gr. Cleveland	1
Kevin	Fitzpatrick	17-24	M	ASO Gr. Cleveland	3
Ted	Polashek	25-34	M	ASO Tabor	1
Dennis	Shutway	35+	M	ASO Gr. Cleveland	1*
Scott	Soneson	35+	M	ASO Ceska Sin	2
Jennifer	Kunzl	0-9	F	ASO Crete	1
Wendi	Haufle	0-9	F	ASO Crete	2
Catherine	Conrad	10-11	F	ASO Detroit	1
Nicole	Muff	12-14	F	ASO Crete	2
Brittanny	Wright	15-16	F	ASO Baltimore	1
Kourtney	Schultz	15-16	F	ASO Gr. Cleveland	2
Becky	Rospotynski	17-24	F	ASO Ceska Sin	1
Gretchen	Vencl	25-34	F	ASO Gr. Cleveland	3
Denise	Denner	35-49	F	ASO Gr. Cleveland	2
Nancy	Chester	35-49	F	ASO Gr. Cleveland	3
Mary	Cushing	50+	F	ASO Detroit	2

Congratulations to all of the competitors who attended the XXV Sokol USA Sokol Fest 2007 in Pittsburgh, PA. A great time was had by all and it looks like American Sokol was very successful in the competitions. Congratulations to the winners! Keep up the good work! KP ;)

Sokol Tabor Junior Class

Submitted by Christina Curran, Sokol Tabor Junior Girls Instructor

The Sokol Tabor Junior Class Election Banquet was held on Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007 in the lower hall at Sokol Tabor. 16 out of 21 juniors were in attendance, along with Candace Short, Sokol Tabor Women's Director and Ken Fron Sr., Sokol Tabor Men's Director.

The banquet opened with a welcome address from Christina Curran, Sokol Tabor Junior Girl Instructor. Next, pizza and refreshments were served. Kandi Pajer, Editor of the American Sokol Gymnast served as guest speaker. She provided an enthusiastic and interactive presentation on growing up in Sokol and how it can prepare Junior's for their professional career.

Then, the candidates for the Sokol Tabor Junior Board presented their speeches. While the ballots were tallied, dessert was served and Christina announced the first Junior Class social event of the season! Sokol Tabor Junior and Senior Classes Night Time Fall Festival at Johansen Farm in Bolingbrook, IL! It is a private party consisting of hay rides, corn mazes, air slides, petting zoo and campfires!

At the end of the evening, the 2007-2008 Sokol Tabor Junior Board was announced: John Fron, Junior Boy Director; Anna Mangia, Junior Girl Director; Elizabeth Nichin, Junior Class Treasurer; Alexandra Mangia, Junior Class Secretary; and Junior Class Representatives Gary Cervenka, Kaitlan Fron , and Caroline Stanko



2007-2008 Sokol Tabor Junior Board

From left to right: Caroline Stanko, Alexandra Mangia, Beth Nichin, Anna Mangia, John Fron, Kaitlan Fron, Gary Cervenka



**Kudos to the Youth of American Sokol. You are our future!
Please do everything you can in your Unit to promote youth participation!**

Iron Lace Crosses

Story and photo by Paula Pojar Vukonich, Sokol Minnesota

Hidden away in small cemeteries scattered across this country are some nearly forgotten treasures of traditional Czech artistry. These are the iron crosses, cast iron grave markers made with such elaborate detail of fleur de lis, scrolls and filigree that they look like lace.

I first noticed a few of these crosses in a tiny Czech cemetery on a desolate South Dakota prairie. How incongruous their delicate beauty was on that parched land, the site of my ancestors' abandoned homestead claims.

Then again I saw many of the iron crosses in St. Wenceslaus cemetery in the early Czech settlement of Spillville, Iowa. The church and cemetery date back to 1860, only a few years after the earliest Czech settlers arrived, including two sets of my great-great-grandparents. The church sits atop a small hill overlooking the town. Impressive for its age, it is perfectly preserved.

Behind the church and extending down the hill is the cemetery with hundreds of cast iron crosses, large and small, in various designs and on different types of bases. They are all painted silver, and when viewed with the sky and the church as a background, the lace-like crosses seemed almost a celestial sight. Some months later I observed five more cast iron crosses in a Hibbing, MN cemetery, abandoned before 1920 when the town was moved.

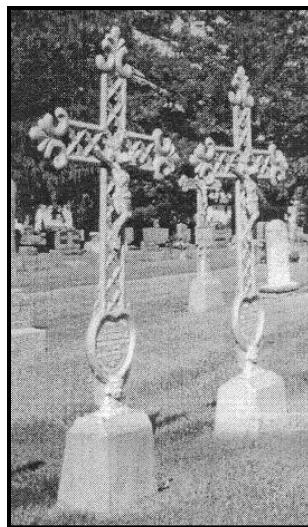
Now I was intrigued with these unusual monuments and began to research them. I found pictures of similar crosses in two old cemeteries in the Czech Republic, near Bílá Hůrka and outside of Klatovy. I'm sure there are many more. The Bohemian crosses were similar in design to those in this country. They were very large, and most were painted black. I don't know the dates on these crosses. In many areas these artistic grave markers were stolen and sold for scrap during the Communist era.

The German Russians also made iron crosses, but theirs were made of wrought iron and fashioned by blacksmiths. The design was created by bending, rolling, twisting and fusing iron bars on a forge. The Russians brought their tradition to this country, and left many examples of wrought iron crosses in western North Dakota, where large groups of them settled.

The Czech iron crosses are completely different in appearance, construction and design because they were made of cast iron. Cast iron is made by pouring molten iron into a sand mold. The sand mold is formed by pressing a wooden pattern into fine, damp, packed

sand leaving an impression of the design. Creating the wooden pattern required a great deal of woodworking skill, and was usually done by a furniture maker or carver.

One such Czech artist was Charles Andera, who lived in Spillville, Iowa. He came to America as a young boy around 1860 from near Tabor, Bohemia. It is believed that Charles apprenticed as a furniture maker with his half -brother who had trained in Vienna. Charles opened a furniture store in Spillville, and did much of the detailed woodworking in St. Wenceslaus Church, as well as the altars of nearby churches. He also made coffins, as furniture makers commonly did in those days.



Perhaps this combination inspired him to make patterns for iron cross grave monuments like the traditional ones near the town where he was born in Bohemia. Charles started creating the cemetery crosses about 1875, and continued making them until his death in 1929. He fashioned his incredibly intricate patterns with wood and plaster of paris, and had the casting done at a foundry. It is thought that he cast the name plates for the crosses himself. Charles incorporated religious symbols and images into his designs. Skull and crossbones were a reminder of man's mortality. The crucified Christ was on all the crosses symbolizing redemption. He also decorated the crosses with angels, cherubs, the Lamb of God, the Virgin Mary and the crown of thorns.

Charles Andera had eight different designs of crosses, and many different bases. The crosses varied in size from 3 feet 9 inches to 10 feet. He was also a photographer, and took pictures of all his different styles of monuments and assigned those numbers, but no evidence of any catalogue has been found. He marked some crosses with his initials, or the city, or the date, some with the number of the cross and some not at all.

Not only do the Andera crosses fill the St. Wenceslaus cemetery in Spillville, but they have been found in twelve states from Texas to northern Minnesota, to New York, and throughout the Midwest. Deceptively delicate, many of these beautiful monuments have marked graves in Czech Catholic cemeteries for well over 100 years, a lasting tribute to those who rest there, as well as the artistry of this Czech immigrant, and the traditions of the homeland.

Author's note: Based on research from "Andera Crosses" web site at www.klimesh.com with the permission of Cyril Klimesh, Charles Andera's grandson. Please visit the web site for additional information and photos.

Rose Barcal 1916 – 2007

Rose Barcal, another long-time Sokolka who has transferred to the Unit that already has admitted so many...



Rose Barcal, born February 1, 1916, in Chicago to Ladislav and Rose Lizak, Czech immigrants. As so many at the time, her parents spoke only Czech at home so she had to learn English at school, which took her no time at all. Her handwriting was so neat and legible; her teacher had her

write things out for her. Rose also loved to draw and could occupy herself for hours with her artwork. Harrison was the high school she attended and at the same time started classes at Sokol Chicago as a Jr. Girl. Sokol was her very favorite place for social activities and being with friends. She was a good competitor, achieving high division level, played in volleyball tournaments and took part in so many of the beautiful special numbers that Sokol Chicago was known for.

Sokol Chicago was also known as where she met her lifetime mate, Stanley Barcal. Several young men had asked her for dates, but she refused because none of them interested her. But... Stan caught her eye. One day, Stan mentioned to a friend that he was thinking of asking Rose out. His friend replied, "Don't bother – she won't go out with you." Stan, being Stan, asked her anyway, she accepted. They went to a movie, and the rest is history.

Before marrying Stan on June 17th, 1937, Rose worked at the Bunte Candy Company in Bricktown, wrapping those delicious chocolates and being paid the grand total of \$15 a week. Later, she worked as a typist at Montgomery Ward (or Monkey Wards, as so many fondly referred to that department store). Stan and Rose made their first home at 25th and St. Louis in Chicago, later moving to 1927 S. 61st Ct., Cicero, and then to a beautiful bungalow at 2437 S. Harvey in Berwyn – where she remained for the rest of her life. The marriage brought forth four children – Roseann, Carole, Julie and Rick, all of whom were in Sokol classes, competing and taking part in exhibitions.

Rose was a devoted homemaker and made delicious Czech meals, pastries, and that rye bread the whole family remembers so well. She also liked to keep busy with needlework, no doubt using that

artistic talent she discovered as a child. She was very active in her

children's lives, driving them and their friends to band and orchestra practice, ballet classes, Sokol classes, and of course, all those events that accompany those programs. She was particularly active in the Komensky PTA for many years, along with her good friend, Anna Svec. Rose and Anna would get together and throw parties for their children with lots of creative games and activities. These parties were always a big hit for all of the kids who came.

Children were always the top priority of Rose's life. There was a time, before Mr. Stranger Danger came onto the scene that a witness spotted a man in a blue car constantly touring the grade school area where her younger children attended. She and several other moms formed a sort of vigilante group, called the police, and stood on corners to make sure all the kids got to and from school safely until the man was apprehended.

An offshoot of the PTA was the Komensky Kitchen Band, and Rose was one of its star players. Now this was not your usual group of music lovers – it was a kazoo band, but each instrument was formed from some common household item, with the kazoo attached so that one could fake playing while humming the music. Let's see now, there was the Johnny seat zither, another instrument was a washboard guitar, and yet another incorporated a plunger, that must have been the slide trombone. This band performed not only for the PTA, but for libraries and church functions too. What an entertaining bunch.

In addition to all of this, Rose was Secretary at Sokol Chicago meetings and also, for a short time, taught a very large class of Tots for Sokol Slavsky. Her patience and gentle ways made her beloved by all, and her special number of 36 little Indians was something to see.

In her later years, as her leg problems increased, Rose was unable to walk and was confined to her home. Despite chronic pain, she was a pleasure to be around. Her courage in the face of adversity, her kindness, and her sense of humor will be deeply missed.

Rose, we all wish you peace – in eternity – and send you our most heartfelt "Nazdar".

Written by Julie Barcal & Ellie Babka

Famous Czech Puppeteers

Information from wikipedia.org

Jiří Barta is a Czech stop-motion animation director. His films, many of which used the medium of wood for animation, garnered critical acclaim and won many awards, but after the fall of the communist government in Czechoslovakia he was unable to release anything for about 15 years (a situation similar to that faced by Russian animator Yuriy Norshteyn).



Lubomír Beneš was a Czech animator, director and author and he lived in Roztoky, near Prague. Of all his creations, Pat & Mat (left) – with first film *The Tinkers* (*Kuťáci*), 1976 – has reached the highest international acclaim. The series comprises short episodes about two highly inventive, yet incredibly clumsy neighbors.

Matěj Kopecký (1775-1847) was a Czech puppeteer. For six generations his descendants followed the art of puppeteering. Kopecký's father was poor traveling puppeteer (*histrion vagus*).

From 1789 to almost 1809 he was forced to serve in the army, within infantry regiment from Písek. Later, he worked as watchmaker, traveling salesman or road worker. In 1818 he obtained license for a puppet theatre and reached certain success in this activity. Kopecký had at least fifteen children of which six had survived into adulthood. Most of them worked as puppeteers and the tradition was kept for six generations.

At his time the puppet theatre was, for many in Czech lands, the only contact with theatrical culture, with ideas of enlightenment and of Czech National Revival. While Kopecký was not the only Czech puppeteer, he became most known during second half of 19th century when his son Václav Kopecký published his plays in print and due to fictional painting of Kopecký by Mikoláš Aleš.

Miroslav Trejtnar, (Photo Page 1) is a master puppeteer and teacher of puppetry. Miroslav Trejtnar is one of few remaining teachers of the art of designing and making traditional Czech marionettes. His courses are in great demand. He also has great knowledge as a manipulator of different styles of puppetry. Puppeteers come from all around the world to have the chance to work with and learn from him. Apart from operating his own studio in Prague, Trejtnar has been invited to lecture in puppet making and design at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, St. Martin's College of Design, London and also in Portugal and Hong Kong. Many of his students work as professional puppeteers and teachers of puppetry in schools around the world.

Josef Skupa (1892-1957). Studied Faculty of Applied Arts in Prague. Worked as stage designer in the Plzen City Theatre, also as designer in Skoda Engineering Works. In year 1920 and 1926 respectively he created his most famous puppets: comical father Spejbl and his rascal son Hurvínek. In 1930 he set up the first modern professional puppet theatre.

Jiří Trnka (1912-1969) was Czech puppet maker, illustrator, motion-picture animator and film director, renowned for his stop motion puppet animations. He graduated from the Prague School of Arts and Crafts. He created a puppet theater in 1936. This group was dissolved when World War II began, and he instead designed stage sets and illustrated books for children throughout the war. After the end of the war, Trnka established an animation unit at the Prague film studio. Trnka soon became internationally recognized as the world's greatest puppet animator in the traditional Czech method, and he won several film festival awards. One animator called him "the Walt Disney of the East". He won an award at the Cannes Festival in 1946, just one year after he began working in film. His films were mostly made for an adult audience. Beginning in 1948, the communist Czech government began to subsidize his work, although this did not seem to affect the message or style of his work. He also created animated cartoons. He wrote the scripts for most of his own films.

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