

# SOKOL TIMES

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

PUBLICATION FOSTERING FRATERNAL, CULTURAL & PHYSICAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES SINCE JULY 14, 1905

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Award recipients are (from left) Paul Medo, John Bagel, Mary Predaina, Jackie Pracko, Betty Galik, Betty Bagel, Lillian Havel, Emil Sumka and John Pracko

## A Celebration of 60 Years of Lodge 306!

When all the Sokols on the Northwest side of Chicago merged in 1947 to form Slovak American Sokol Krivan Sokol USA Lodge 306, few could have guessed as to the success and longevity of what had just been created. Sixty years later, and thanks to the blood, sweat and tears of its hundreds of hard-working members, Lodge 306 has evolved into a lasting tribute

to the Sokol ideals in the Chicago area.

The idea of celebrating a 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary was first conceived in October 2006 when it was brought up at a lodge meeting that the year 2007 would mark this milestone. It was agreed that we would attempt to celebrate this anniversary, and Bryan and Scott Pracko volunteered to co-chair this event. Their first task

involved deciding what committees would be formed and finding people to head those committees. Once all the committees and chairpersons were in place, monthly meetings were held beginning in February 2007. Plans were decided on in much detail and agreed upon by the group as a whole. The primary goal of the committee was to have nothing to do on the night of the celebration so all committee members could enjoy themselves as well. Therefore, it was decided we would hire a caterer to prepare and serve our dinner.

Committees formed were as follows:

Dinner and Kitchen Committee – Cindy Merker and Jackie Pracko, chairpersons. This committee decided on the menu and went about contracting the caterer. They also made sure the kitchen was prepared and cleaned properly. The various delicious hors d'oeuvres were prepared and served by Jackie Pracko, Cindy Merker, Harriet Kelly, Amy Pracko and Priscilla Kaiser.

Bar Committee – John Pracko, chairman. It was decided to have the Mai tai be our special drink of the evening and John Pracko prepared several gallons of the mix. He also put together the rest of the bar and found our two excellent bartenders, Chris and David Carlson.

Invitations Committee – Janel Blakely, chairperson. Invitations were chosen and made to serve as a lasting memory of this event. Janel also purchased and printed out the place cards for each individual and table.

(Continued on Page 8)

## From the President's View

You answered the call for help. Many, many thanks to those who so generously contributed to Sokol Woodlands' fund drive for a new roof for the motel unit. Members of the Camp Board took the first step with their individual contributions, led by Chairman Brother Charles Bednar. The list of individuals and Sokol Lodges and Districts who made contributions was published in January's Sokol Times and each has been individually thanked.

This is a critical time in the life of Sokol Woodlands. The list of volunteers continues to decline; costs, on the other hand, keep rising; our aging camp is in need of many repairs – some little and some not so little, as the motel roof. Sometimes we ask the question "Why?" Why are we still doing this? Why are there not more Sokol members actively involved? And then, a real need arises and you, our members, show us that you care and that the cause is worth the effort. And that, my dear members, is priceless. That is what keeps the Sokol spirit alive. For that, there are not enough thank you's or words of appreciation.

The last meeting of the Camp Board finalized the program for this coming summer season. STAR Camp and Day Camp programs will run for four weeks, a Slovak language camp for children is in the works, and the usual Fourth of July, Clambake and Labor Day weekends round out the schedule. Our Sokol Lodge in Farrell is planning a weekend for their lodge members and invites another Sokol USA lodge or two to join them. More information will be forthcoming in the Sokol Times.

It is always a pleasure to have good news to share. Frank Kudlac, son of former Frank "Slicker" Kudlac, of Binghamton will be inducted into the West Chester University Hall of Fame on February 16. So many athletes pass through the halls of a university and few are honored in this way. Frank competed on the men's



Bea Walko

gymnastics team, coached by Brother Milan Trnka, while attending West Chester. He is currently a very successful coach of the women's gymnastics team at Texas Women's University, where he has coached his team to eight USAG national championships. He himself has been NCAA Division II Coach of the Year seven times. In the press release, Frank credits his start in gymnastics with Sokol. Congratulations to you, Frank, on your success and this achievement.

I recently attended the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Slovak Ball, sponsored by the Slovak-American Cultural Society. This year, the ball commemorated the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Slovakia's independence as the Slovak Republic. I was again reminded of the role Sokol USA, along with other Slovak fraternal organizations, played in the support of Czechoslovakia through the Pittsburgh Agreement.

I am writing this article to you on the day after the Super Bowl. I send sincerest congratulations to our former Sokol USA President, Brother John Walek, on the Giants' win. Brother Walek had been a Giants' fan for more years than I am able to count. I know there are others – Brother George Holick from Danbury and all the Boontonites who ride the bus to the Giant games – but this one's for you, Brother John.

NaZdar!  
Bea Walko



Lodge 306 President Scott Pracko speaks to the guests at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

# SOKOL TIMES

official organ of the  
SLOVAK GYMNASTIC UNION SOKOL  
OF THE USA

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## NOTICE

### Annual Meeting Of the Supreme Lodge

Of the  
**Slovak Gymnastic Union  
Sokol of the USA**

**March 27, 28 & 29, 2008**

#### Finance Committee

Thursday, March 27, 2008 at Sokol USA  
Headquarters

Friday, March 28, 2008 at Boonton Sokol Hall

#### Supreme Lodge

Saturday, March 29, 2007 at Boonton Sokol Hall

*All proposals, recommendations, petitions  
and complaints of individual members, Lodges  
and Districts are to be duly signed, certified  
and forwarded to:*

Office of the Supreme Secretary  
SOKOL USA

276 Prospect Street, P.O. Box 189  
East Orange, NJ 07019-0189

Postmarked no later than March 13, 2008

Nazdar!

Beatrice Walko, President

Judith Smith, Treasurer ~ Milan S. Kovac, Secretary

## MEMORIAL GIFT

TO THE

## MILAN GETTING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

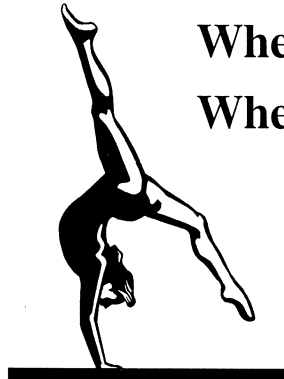
In appreciation of the Slovak Gymnastic Union  
Sokol of the USA,  
the following gift of \$500 is given:

*In loving memory of my parents,  
Stephan Francis Fronko  
and Emma Radakovich Fronko,*

by Barbara Fronko Froehlich

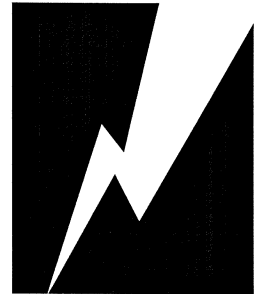
## SOKOL USA GYMNASTICS &

## JERSEY LIGHTNING ALL-STAR CHEER TRICKY TRAY



**When: Sunday, March 2, 2008**

**Where: Zeris Inn  
378 US Highway 46  
Mountain Lakes, NJ**



**Donation: \$45.00**

**Includes Admission, Buffet Dinner, Soda,  
1 sheet each of First & 1 sheet of Second Level Prizes**

**\*\*\* Cash Bar Available \*\*\***

**Doors Open at 2:30 pm**

**Calling Starts Promptly at 5:00 pm**

**Advance Admission Tickets Only**

**No Admission Tickets (walk-ins) will be sold at the door**

**For ticket information call:**

**Andrea @ 973-462-0377**

**or Paula @ 973-328-4671**

## DONATIONS GRATEFULLY APPRECIATED TO THE SOKOL WOODLANDS ROOF FUND

#### Acknowledged with Thanks

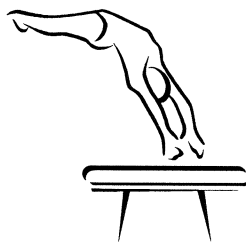
Sokol USA Lodge 2, Bridgeport, Conn.

\$200.00

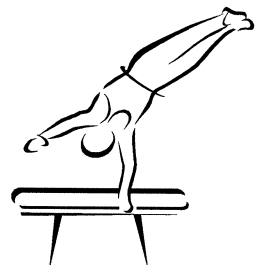
Sokol USA Lodge 306, Chicago, Ill.

\$50.00

## GYMNASTICS COMPETITIONS!



**Whether you are getting ready  
to compete, or getting ready to  
cheer on our athletes, here are  
some upcoming gymnastics  
competitions to put on your  
calendar:**



#### **March 8, 2008 – District MM Hodza competition**

at the Boonton Sokol Hall.

Sokolads, Jr. Boys and Sr. Men: warm-up at 10am, competition at 11am.

Sokolettes, Jr. Girls and Sr. Women: warm-up at 12pm, competition at 1pm.

#### **April 12, 2008 – United Sokols of the East Children's competition**

at the American Sokol Hall in New York City.

Sokolads: warm-up at 10am, competition at 11am.

Sokolettes: warm-up at 1pm, competition at 2pm.

#### **May 10, 2008 – United Sokols of the East Junior/Senior**

**competition** at the American Sokol Hall in New York City.

Jr. Boys and Sr. Men: warm-up at 10am, competition at 11am.

Jr. Girls and Sr. Women: warm-up at 1 pm, competition at 2 pm.



LODGE 306 CARTWHEEL-A-THON

The Tech/Gym Staff at the Sokol Community Center, Lodge 306 sure know how to put the “fun” in fundraising. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the gymnasts at Lodge 306 participated in the Annual Cartwheel/Roll/Walk-a-thon.

What is that you ask? Well, each gymnast is given an allotted amount of time to perform as many cartwheels (10 minutes), rolls (5 minutes) or laps (10 minutes) around the gym as they can. They are given a pledge sheet ahead of time and are to get as many pledges/donations as they can. They then perform their task and collect the money when finished. They all love this fundraiser because the goal for each gymnast is to beat their number from the previous year. Awards are presented to the gymnast who does the most cartwheels and rolls, and there is also an award for the top three money collectors.

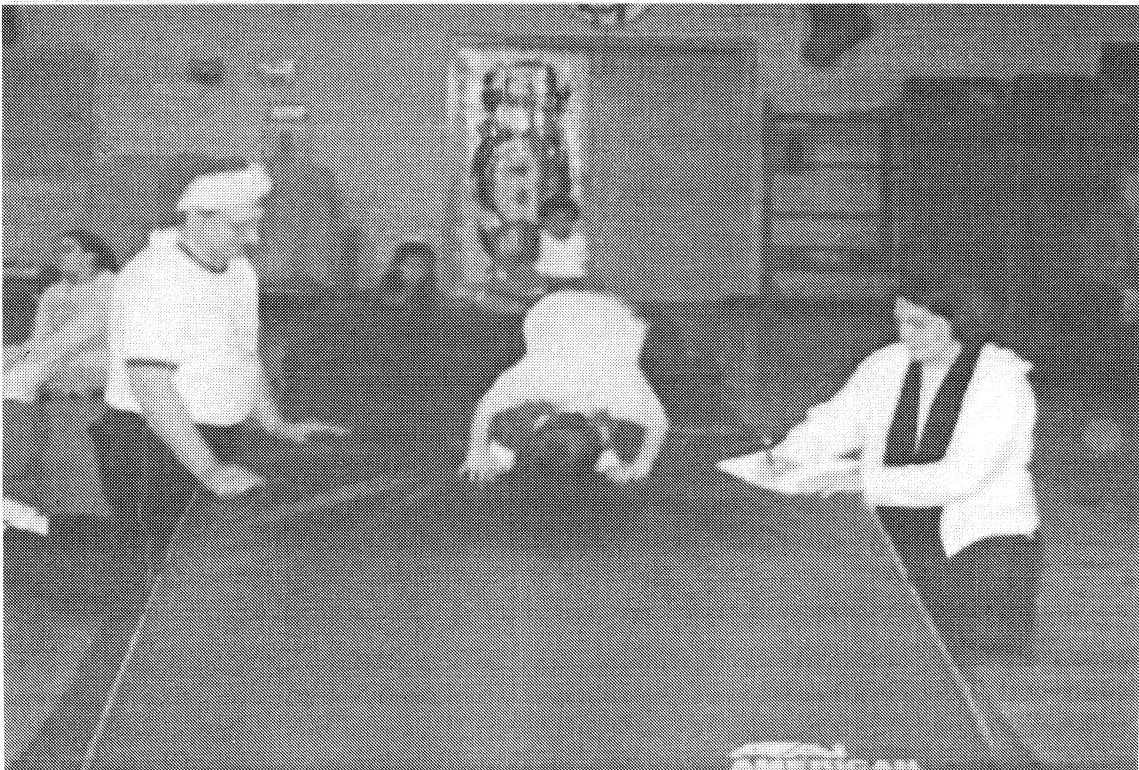
When they have all twirled and rolled themselves silly, we then play games, have a visit from Santa and eat pizza.



Samantha Pracko, (in front) age 7, performed 279 cartwheels in 10 minutes. Frankie Tudisco, (in back) age 13, performed 160 cartwheels in 10 minutes.



A special visit from the Jolly Old Guy himself!



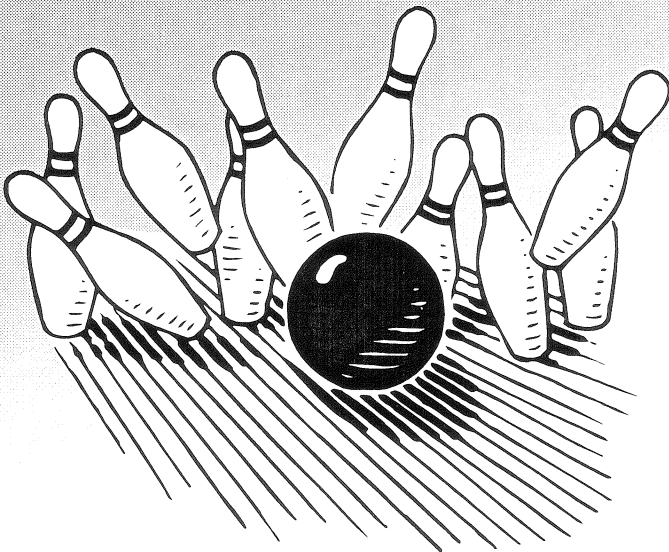
Matthew Pracko, age 4, performed 68 forward rolls in 5 minutes.



All classes join in a game of Fishy, Fishy Cross my Ocean.

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

<b>To the Sokol USA Gymnastic Fund</b>		
Sokol USA Lodge 248, Rossford, Ohio		\$250.00
In memory of Deceased members		
<b>To the Milan Getting Scholarship Fund</b>		
Sokol USA Lodge 248, Rossford, Ohio		\$250.00
In memory of Deceased members		
Sokol USA Lodge 79, Mahanoy City, Pa.		\$50.00
In memory of Deceased members		



DIAMOND JUBILEE  
60<sup>th</sup> SOKOL USA  
NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

Put May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 on your calendar  
and start making plans  
to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> National Bowling Tournament!

**King Pin Lanes**  
Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey  
(Near Atlantic City)

Saturday, May 17: 9am and 12 pm Doubles and Singles events  
Sunday May 18: 9 am Four-Bowler Team events

More information coming soon.





Lodge 114 members enjoy their annual Christmas dinner.

## LODGE 114 SLEEPY HOLLOW, N.Y.

Our Lodge 114 held its annual meeting on December 2, 2007, at the National sokol, Inc., in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y. At this meeting it was decided to continue our financial support of the charities and organizations that we have helped in the past. Also, a decision was made to have our annual Christmas dinner at Andrews Restaurant in Elmsford this year.

The following were elected officers for 2008:

President	Scott Horecky
Vice President	William Garbade
Treasurer	Harvey Suretta
Financial/Recording Secretary	Stephen Horecky

After the meeting, the members enjoyed refreshments. The officers and members of Lodge 114 wish all the members of Sokol USA a very happy and healthy new year.

Nazdar

Stephen Horecky  
Secretary

## SOKOL WOODLANDS NEEDS SUMMER HELP

Our camp in Barryville, N.Y., is looking for Sokol members and friends to work during our 2008 summer season. Please consider whether you could spend one or more weeks at our camp, located in the beautiful southern Catskills, near the Delaware River. It's a great place for people of all ages to get away from the routine.

Pre-season and post-season volunteer help is always needed and appreciated as well.  
*Help us keep our camp open!*

The 2008 season will run for at least four weeks, from Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We need help in many areas:

- Manager (four weeks or more)
- Day Camp Director
- Nurse
- Camp mothers/fathers
- Gymnastics instructors and Counselors
- Lifeguards
- Handyman
- Kitchen help
- Groundskeeper

*Think you might be interested??*

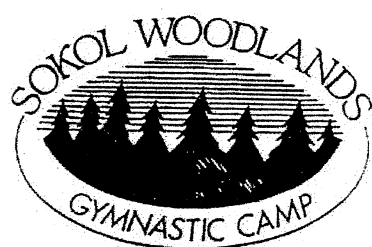
Send an email to  
[sokolwoodlands@yahoo.com](mailto:sokolwoodlands@yahoo.com)  
or call Brandi Kovac  
at 908-400-2169.

## SOKOL TIMES IS ONLINE

If you haven't visited the Sokol USA website lately, you might not be aware that you can read the Sokol Times online.

To access the Sokol Times, go to [www.sokolusa.org](http://www.sokolusa.org) and click on the Today icon on the left-hand side of the homepage. On the pull down menu, select Sokol Times. From there, you have the option of reading the most current issue or one of the archived issues that go back to November 2006.

It's a great way to keep up with Sokol news and it's posted earlier than most of us receive our Sokol Times.



44th Season of Summer Camping!

# Sokol USA - STAR Camp

## 2008 Application

**\$405.00 per child per week for the first two weeks,**  
**if deposit received by April 14<sup>th</sup>**  
(Same rates as in 2007)

**\$10.00 discount for additional two weeks or additional siblings**  
**\$30.00 per child per week surcharge, if registering after April 14<sup>th</sup>**

A \$50.00 per child per week deposit is due by April 14<sup>th</sup>. ☺ Balance of payment for the enrollment period is due by June 2nd. ☺ Parent consent and medical forms may be brought to registration. ☺ Deposit is non-refundable after June 2nd. ☺ Please make check payable to Sokol Woodlands. ☺ Mail application and deposit to Sokol Woodlands' winter address:

**Sokol Woodlands Day Camp, 276 Prospect St., P.O. Box 189, East Orange, NJ, 07019**

*Rules for acceptance and participation are the same for everyone  
without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin.*

Camper's First Name      Last Name      Age      Please check week(s) of enrollment:

- Week 1 – July 6 - July 12      ☐
- Week 2 – July 13 - July 19      ☐
- Week 3 – July 20 - July 26      ☐
- Week 4 – July 27 - Aug 2      ☐

Camper's Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Sokol Lodge/Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parents/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

*In consideration of your acceptance of my application, I do hereby for myself and my heirs, waive, release and forever discharge any and all claims against the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol USA or Sokol Woodlands and their respective officers and instructors for any injury to me while participating in the Sokol USA-Star Camp or while traveling to or returning from said program.*

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Please email us at: [SokolWoodlands@yahoo.com](mailto:SokolWoodlands@yahoo.com)  
Or call 888-253-0362 or 845-557-8413 and leave a message.



## IN MEMORY

*Of our deceased Brother  
and Sister Sokols  
with a sincere expression  
of sympathy to their families  
from the Supreme Officers of  
Sokol U.S.A.*

**IRENE RATAIC** – (1919-2007) A member of Lodge 209 in Rankin, Pa. She is survived by her daughters, Kathy and Marian Rataic, and a son, Thomas Rataic.

**JOSEPH STRBAK** – (1921-2007) A member of Lodge 68 in Blairsville, Pa. He is survived by a son, Jon Collin Strbak; a daughter, Jan Carol Strbak, and a stepson, Phillip Zwinger.

**JOHN KALLA** – (1926-2007) A member of Lodge 276 in Pittsburgh, Pa. He is survived by his wife, Rita Best Kalla; three sons, Stephen T. Kalla, John R. Kalla and Michael R. Kalla, and a brother, Joseph Kalla.

**FRANK R. BUSONIC SR.** – (1925-2007) A member of Lodge 500 in East Orange, N.J. He is survived by a son, Frank A. Busonic Jr., and two sisters, Verona Kalvin and Margaret Ban.

**ANDREW J. MIHALIK** – (1929-2007) A member of Lodge 255 in Leechburg, Pa. He is survived by his wife, Ailsa J. Mihalik.

**ANNE H. BACH** – (1929-2007) A member of Lodge 269 in Whiting, Ind. She is survived by three sons, John Bach, Michael Bach and Matt Bach, and two daughters, Jayne Peterson and Barbara Oliver.

**BLANCHE TURAN** – (1923-2007) A member of Lodge 51W in Binghamton, N.Y. She is survived by two daughters, Mary Legnini and Patricia Lillie.

**THERESA KALKA** – (1921-2007) A member of Lodge 15W in Binghamton, N.Y. She is survived by a daughter, Margaret Kalka, and two sons, James Kalka and Paul Kalka.

**ELEANOR SLOVENSKY** – (1918-2007) A member of Lodge 20 in Ford City, Pa. She is survived by a granddaughter, Jessica M. Slovensky.

**ANNA FRAIND** – (1914-2007) A member of Lodge 30W in Allentown, Pa. She is survived by a daughter, Ann C. Bove, and a son, Anthony Fraind.

**CHARLES HMUROVIC** – (1915-2007) A member of Lodge 269 in Whiting, Ind. He is survived by his wife, Bette Hmurovic.

**JOSEPHINE PLACEK** – (1916-2007) A member of Lodge 20 in Ford City, Pa. She is survived by two sons, Anton M. Placek and Edward T. Placek.

**ANNA SCHMITT** – (1907-2006) A member of Lodge 50 in New Britain, Conn. She is survived by a daughter-in-law, Mildred Schmitt, and a granddaughter, Mary Schmitt.

**MARJORIE P. WALTON** – (1934-2008) A member of Lodge 115W in Gary, Ind. She is survived by her husband, James Walton.

**BLANCHE M. TURAN** – (1923-2007) A member of Lodge 15W in Binghamton, N.Y. She is survived by two daughters, Mary Legnini and Patricia Lillie.

**JEAN MARIE POWELL** – (1962-2008) A member of Lodge 66W in Bethlehem, Pa. She is survived by two daughters, Kelly M. Powell and Kimberly L. Powell, and two brothers, Walter Chrynwski Jr. and Donald Chrynwski.

## Sokol Social News

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Dennis and Irene Katz on their wedding day on October 19, 1957, and at their golden anniversary.

Dennis and Irene Katz of Sokol Lodge 306, Chicago, Ill., celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 20, 2007. The celebration was held at a hotel with family, friends and Sokol members. Irene was a Sokol gymnast at Stefanik Court on the south side of Chicago. Dennis is a former President and Director of Lodge 306. Irene and Dennis met at Sokol Camp in Potters Lake, Wis. Their son, Bob, is a member of Lodge 306 and competed last year in Pittsburgh. Their daughter, Donna, was in Sokol for many years as a gymnast and instructor, as was Bob.



Veronica Jancik, a member of Boonton Lodge 32, celebrated her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 12<sup>th</sup>. She was a longtime resident of Boonton, N.J., and now resides in West Milford. Veronica (in front at right) was celebrated her birthday with her sisters, Irene Mitchko, Anna Murphy and Lillian Heisenbuttel, and her brother, Bill Jancik (not pictured).

**MARIA KURDEL** – (1910-2005) A member of Lodge 277 in Sudbury Ontario, Canada. She is survived by a son, Michael Kurdel.

**HELEN ROCKAR** – (1915-2007) A member of Lodge 255 in Leechburg, Pa. She is survived by two nieces, Rose Marie Kuniak and Patricia Marco.

### GYMNASTICS ON TELEVISION

Catch up on who's who in the gymnastics world! Watch America's newest stars perform their toughest tricks! The following events are scheduled to be televised on NBC at the following times, but check your local listings.

March 1 at 1:00PM – Tyson American Cup

April 13 at 4:00PM – Pacific Alliance

June 7 at 4:00PM – Visa Championships – Women's

June 8 at 2:00PM – Visa Championships – Women's continued

June 15 at 12:00PM – Visa Championships – Men's

June 21 at 4:30PM – Olympic Trials – Men's

June 21 at 8:00PM – Olympic Trials – Women's

June 22 at 7:00PM – Olympic Trials – Women's

You can also log onto: [www.nbcolympics.com](http://www.nbcolympics.com) for the latest 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games information.

### LODGE 306 OF CHICAGO Calendar of Events

Friday, February 22nd, 7:30 p.m., Social Night: Bring a dish and a friend

Sunday, March 16th, Palm Sunday Brunch

Friday, March 28th, 7:30 p.m., Social Night: Everyone is welcome

Friday, April 11th, 6:30 p.m., Exhibition Rehearsal; All classes need to attend  
Saturday, April 12th, 4 p.m., Exhibition





4TH CZECH AND SLOVAK HISTORY AND CULTURE CONFERENCE

The National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library (NCSML) is hosting the 4th Czech and Slovak History and Culture conference March 7-8, 2008. This conference is the fourth in a five part series titled "The 20th Century in Retrospect."

This conference is subtitled "1968 - 1980: Prague Spring, Normalization, and Charter 77." The conference takes a closer look at the 12 volatile years in Czechoslovakia from 1968 - 1980. Socialism with a human face... Alexander Dubcek and the Prague Spring... Warsaw Pact Invasion... Normalization... the anticommunist movement that culminated in Charter 77, these topics and more will be examined by top scholars and through first-hand accounts. The NCSML's Czech and Slovak History and Culture Conferences are among the best received small conferences addressing Czech and Slovak issues.

Additionally, while the conference itself will not be held at the NCSML, I hope you will consider bringing members to the museum and library for a tour of the galleries and a visit to the library. Large group tours must be arranged in advance through Patricia Hikiji at phikiji@NCSML.org or by calling (319) 362-8500. I look forward to meeting you and your members in March.

If you have questions, call (319) 362-8500 or e-mail me at Jan@NCSML.org. For up-to-date information, consult the museum web site, www.NCSML.org.

Jan Stoffer  
Director of Operations and Education  
National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Thursday, March 6, 2008** - National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.: Opening Reception for 1968: Twelve Volatile Months that Transformed the World

**Friday, March 7, 2008** - Cedar Rapids Marriott Hotel and Convention Center  
8:00 - 8:45 a.m. Registration  
8:45 a.m. Welcome by NCSML President/CEO Gail Naughton  
9:00 a.m. General overview of 1968 global events by Dr. Allen Steinberg, Professor, The University of Iowa.  
10:25 a.m. "Charter 77 and Its Role in Czechoslovak History" by Dr. Martin Palous, Former Ambassador from the Czech Republic to the United States and Charter 77 Signatory.  
11:45 a.m. Lunch  
1:15 p.m. "Dubcek and Socialism with a Human Face: 1968 Czechoslovak Prague Spring" by Dr. Winston Chrislock, Professor, St. Thomas University.  
1:15 p.m. "Slovakia: A Particular Response to Liberalization and Normalization" by Dr. Stanislav Kirschbaum, Professor, York University.  
2:45 p.m. "Architecture or Revolution: Design Culture in Czechoslovakia After 1968" by Dr. Kimberly Elman Zarecor, Assistant Professor, Iowa State University.  
2:45 p.m. "Briefcases, Typewriters and Courage: Thoughts on the Samizdat Scene in Czechoslovakia in the 1970's and 1980's" by Dr. Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz, Professor Emerita, University of British Columbia.  
4:00 p.m. RECEPTION at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library  
7:00 p.m. DINNER. Keynote address "A Virtual Evening with Václav Havel" including a viewing of the film Citizen Václav Havel Goes on Vacation by Jan Novak, Author and Filmmaker.

**Saturday, March 8, 2008**  
8:00 a.m. Registration  
8:45 a.m. Comments by NCSML President/CEO Gail Naughton.  
9:00 a.m. "The Prague Spring of 1968 Remembered" by Dr. Kenneth N. Skoug, Jr., U.S. Embassy Prague from 1967 - 1969.  
10:25 a.m. "The Brezhnev Doctrine and the End of Prague Spring," by Dr. Paula Michaels, The University of Iowa.  
11:30 a.m. LUNCH  
1:15 p.m. "The Impact of Communism on the Educational System During Normalization" by Dr. Josef Mestenhauser, Professor Emeritus, University of Minnesota.  
1:15 p.m. "Czechoslovak Exile Movement and the Council of Free Czechoslovakia 1974-1977" by Dr. Mojmir Povolný, Chairman of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia 1974-1994.  
2:45 p.m. "After the Prague Spring, Normalization, Federalization, and the Collapse of Communism" by Dr. Carol Leff. Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.  
5:30 p.m. WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION at the NCSML  
7:00 p.m. DINNER. Keynote address "The Effects of the Events of 1968 - 1980 on the Countries Today" His Excellency Radislav Kacer, Ambassador from the Slovak Republic to the United States, and Consul General Marek Skolil of the Czech Republic.

**Sunday, March 9, 2008** - National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library  
2:00 p.m. "The Expulsion of the Israeli Diplomatic Corps in 1967 as a Turning Point in State-Jewish Relations in the CSSR: A New Perspective in How to Think About Czechoslovak History" by Jacob Labendz, graduate student in the History Department at Washington University, St. Louis.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Location: Conference sessions and meals are at the Crowne Plaza Five Seasons Hotel, 350 1st Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. See schedule for events at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

Registration Information: Select from full conference registration, or register for a single day. NCSML members save \$10 off full registration by registering prior to February 21st. (To become a museum member or to confirm your membership, call 319-362-8500.) Registration cancellations after March 7th will be subject to a \$25 handling fee; meals are not refundable after March 7th.

Accommodations: Blocks of rooms have been reserved at the following: Marriott Hotel and Convention Center (1200 Collins Road NE): \$89 + tax, per night single or double. Call 319-393-6600 or 1-800-396-2153 and ask for "Czech and Slovak History and Culture Conference." Rate expires Feb. 14. For more information about Cedar Rapids and accommodations, visit the Cedar Rapids Convention & Visitors Bureau Web site at www.cedar-rapids.com or call 1-800-735-5557 for a copy of the Cedar Rapids Visitor's Guide.




Museum Admission: Admission to all galleries is free on March 7 & 8 for paid conference participants. Non-member guests accompanying participants may purchase a two-day pass for the regular one-day price: \$7 adults, \$6 seniors 65 and over, \$2 children.

On exhibit in the Petrik Gallery: 1968 an original exhibition curated by the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, the only one like it in the United States. In the North Hall Gallery: The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain by Peter Sís.

SHARE YOUR FAMILY EVENTS WITH YOUR "SOKOL FAMILY"

*The Sokol Times Social Page is a new way to keep up with your old and new friends! Share your families' events with your Sokol family. We want to hear from you. Only news regarding members of our lodges will be printed.*

Complete one of the attached forms and mail the information and a photograph of clear quality to Sokol USA, 276 Prospect Street, P.O. Box 189, East Orange, NJ 07109-0189. Information and photographs also may be e-mailed to: SOKOLUSAHQs@aol.com

<div><div>ENGAGEMENTS, WEDDINGS &amp; ANNIVERSARIES</div><div></div><div>NAMES: _____</div><div>PHONE #: _____</div><div>HOMETOWN: _____</div><div>SOKOL LODGE: _____</div><div>YEARS MARRIED (IF APPLICABLE): _____</div></div>	<div><div>BIRTHDAYS</div><div></div><div>NAME: _____</div><div>BIRTH DATE: _____</div><div>AGE: _____</div><div>PHONE #: _____</div><div>HOMETOWN: _____</div><div>SOKOL LODGE: _____</div></div>	<div><div>PROMOTIONS, HONOR ROLLS &amp; OTHER EVENTS</div><div></div><div>NAME: _____</div><div>PHONE #: _____</div><div>HOMETOWN: _____</div><div>SOKOL LODGE: _____</div><div>EVENT: _____</div></div>
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Lodge Officers (from left) are Jackie Pracko, John Pracko, Bryan Pracko, Jim Kelly, Priscilla Kaiser, Scott Pracko, Norm Kaiser, Kristin Merker, Lillian Havel, Harriet Kelly, Don Schramek and Peggy Rivera

## Lodge 306 has 60<sup>th</sup> Celebration

(Continued from Page 1)

**Reservations Committee** – Betty Bagel, chairperson. This committee was in charge of accepting all reservations and for arranging and seating of all persons at the tables.

**Program Book Committee** – Scott Pracko, chairman. A keepsake program book was put together to commemorate this anniversary. Many local businesses, Sokol lodges and units from around the country, and individuals sending their greetings to Lodge 306 for this milestone purchased ads. Ad book profits totaled over \$2,000! Thank you one and all for your support!

**Decorations Committee** – Priscilla Kaiser and Harriet Kelly, chairpersons. The hall decorations were quite festive with all the stars and photos on the walls, and the balloons and centerpieces. The lighted trees also added to the ambience of the evening. They also had the large wall signs made to announce our celebration.

**Mementos Committee** – Bryan Pracko and Scott Pracko, chairmen. This committee decided on and purchased some keepsake souvenirs including a bookmark, pens and other items provided by Sokol USA.

**Hall Preparations and Setup** – Dennis Katz, Jim Kelly and Norm Kaiser, chairpersons. The floors were scrubbed, the hallways and restrooms were polished, and new blinds and carpeting were installed in the entryway. Tables and chairs were repaired and cleaned as well. Tables and chairs were set up and all other preparations were made during the week prior so as to allow all members to enjoy the party on Saturday night. Breakdown of all this was the day and week afterwards. Many comments were received about how great the hall looked for this day!

**History Display Committee** – Bryan Pracko and Kristin Merker, chairpersons. Upon walking into the upstairs hall, one could not help but notice the vast display along the entire length of the Elston Avenue wall. Items and photos covering the entire 60-year history of Lodge 306 were handsomely displayed and included items from sleds, catering, the building of the Sokol Community Center, hodyes, bingo, the mortgage burning party, and much, much more! The library/museum upstairs was also open and attracted many guests as well. An area of the main display

*Overall, this celebration was a rousing success due to the hard work and perseverance of the meetings and all the time put into it panned out into a great time for all who attended.  
A huge thank you and NaZdar!*

was set aside to recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of District L. Stur. This display remained up until the time of gymnastics registration in September. Many items can still be viewed in the Library/Museum upstairs.

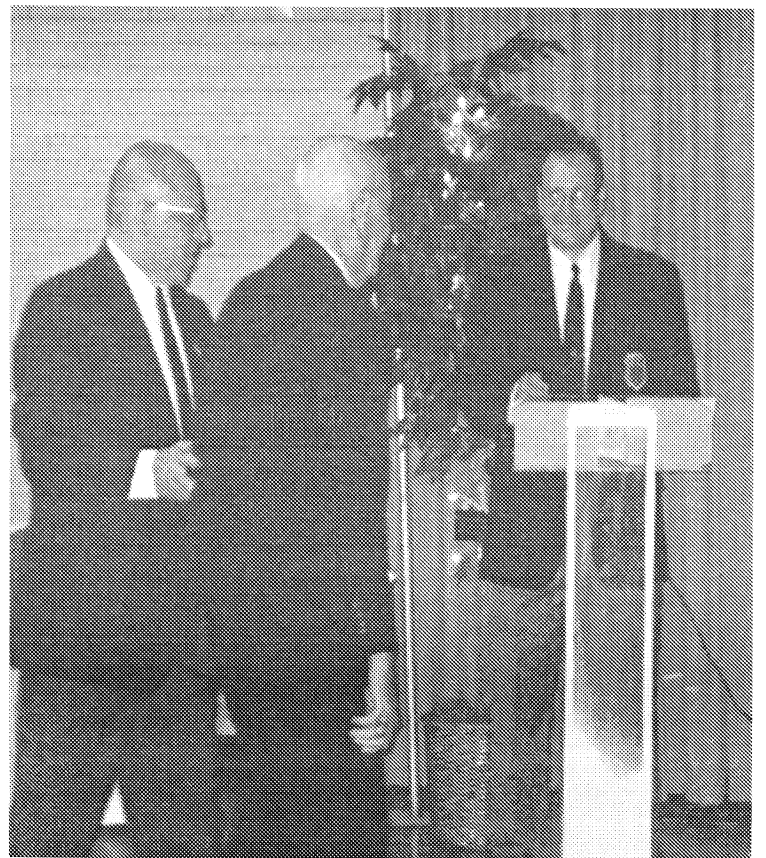
**Entertainment/Program Committee** – Scott Pracko, Bryan Pracko and John Bagel, chairmen. This committee was in charge of the entire program for the evening. Dignitaries from the City of Chicago, County of Cook, State of Illinois, and U.S. Congress were contacted and invited to attend. We were very pleased to welcome Alderman Margaret Laurino and State Representative John D'Amico. They were unable to stay for dinner, but did stay for a drink and commented on how nice the hall looked with all the decorations. After dinner, Sis. Debbie Golden, Member of the Sokol USA Supreme Lodge Finance Committee, spoke on behalf of Sokol USA. Lodge 306 President Scott Pracko gave a rousing tribute to the many members past and present who have made Lodge 306 what it is today. A special presentation of merit pins was then made to all those who have been continuous adult members for 35 years or more. Julia Placko and Paul Medo have been members for 71 and 70 years, respectively! WOW! Others recognized were John Pracko for 39 years, Emil Sumka for 42 years, Lillian Havel for 45 years, Betty Bagel for 54 years, Mickie Chilla for 55 years, Betty Galik for 56 years, Jackie Pracko for 58 years, John Bagel for 61 years and Mary Predaina for 63 years. Next, a special presentation was made to two of our stalwart members for over 50 years, John and Jackie Pracko. Bryan Pracko made an emotional speech honoring his parents on this occasion and they were presented with a weekend dinner/theater package in Fort Atkinson, Wis. This idea was conceived of by the lodge officers, and it is an honor that

was long overdue for these two. After these presentations, the dancing portion of the evening began. Our DJ for the night was Mario Mongello, a friend and member of Sokol Spirit. A variety of music was played so guests of all ages could enjoy the dancing. Dancing went on until 11:30 p.m. and everyone had a great time.

Overall, this celebration was a rousing success due to the hard work and perseverance of the meetings and all the time put into it panned out into a great time for all who attended. A huge thank you and NaZdar! to all these people. These members, along with lodge officers Lillian Havel and Don Schramek, pitched in at every turn to help out. Thanks also to all who attended, especially our friends from American Sokol and the Banjak Family, who traveled from Farrell, Pa., to celebrate with us! Also, thanks to those who sent greetings for your continued support of Lodge 306. We hope to see you all when we celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup>!

NaZdar!

Bryan Pracko, Co-Chairman  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee



Lodge 306's oldest member, Emil Sumka, is presented with an award.



Debbie Golden addresses the crowd on behalf of the Supreme Lodge.



Guests at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration enjoy the evening.