

# SOKOL TIMES

MARCH 12, 2009

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

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## Lodge 32 in Boonton celebrates 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sokol Hall

The early meetings of Lodge 32 were held at the National Slovak Hall on Cedar Street and Highland Avenue in Boonton. As the membership grew, meetings were held at the Union Hall above Martancik's Store, the Sisters Cyril & Methodius Meeting Room and at Hocker's Hall. On November 7, 1909, the Sokols held their first meeting in their newly constructed building, the present National Sokol Hall on Pine Street and Highland Avenue. The Sokol Hall soon became the center of Slovak culture in the Boonton area and a second home for the lodge members.

A large gymnasium met the needs of the gymnastic program, exhibitions, dances and other social activities. The stage was used for plays, lectures and musical programs, all important activities in the lodge and community. The meeting room was on the lower level and housed a Slovak library. This level also contained a small kitchen, a smaller bar and the game room – a beloved area of the card players.

A small utility area contained the hot air furnace and, during the winter months, gymnasts brought a few sticks of wood for the wood burning stove that kept the gym comfortable. The rest room was a "two-seater" out in

the yard.

That our Lodge members are talented, hard working and devoted to the maintenance of Sokol Hall is evident by the alterations made over the years. Rest rooms were installed on the gymnasium level. A double set of stairs with an entry to the meeting room, along with simulated brick siding improved the appearance of 301 Pine Street. The electric wiring was updated and wall paneling was installed in the meeting and game rooms.

In 1964, a major renovation was undertaken to extend the length of the building into the yard. This provided a comfortable bar, rest rooms and stairs on the lower level and a large kitchen and equipment room above. The balcony was removed, the lighting system expanded and wood paneling installed in the gym. The mortgage burning for this renovation was a great party. Shortly thereafter, white vinyl siding was applied to the building. In 1980, the large evergreen tree gave way to a refrigerated area and above that a gymnastic equipment storage facility.

To meet the needs for additional gymnastic floor space and for "step free" access for our

senior guests, a renovation was made in 1990. A ramp entrance was constructed from Highland Avenue. The stage was removed to expand the floor space, which required lowering the basement kitchen floor. A new gas furnace and hot water heater were installed and the gym area was air conditioned. A plaque lists the members who helped with this latest renovation.

What writes as a few paragraphs fails to account for the countless volunteer hours of hard, physical work devoted to our beautiful Sokol Hall by many dedicated members. We express our gratitude to every chairman and member of the Building and Grounds Committee and the House Committee who have made our Sokol Hall our Sokol home for 100 years.



Bea Walko

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S VIEW

The news is spreading around our Sokol family that Sokol Woodlands will more than likely not be conducting a camping program this coming season. A number of factors have impacted this decision. The season last year was less than productive. The economic crisis was very real in the Barryville area and, thus, attendance at Day Camp was significantly low. Salaries have risen dramatically to attract counselors, water instructors, nurses, etc., that have the qualifications required by the state of New York. Volunteers are few. Very few Sokol children attend our camp program.

At the semi-annual meeting of the Supreme Lodge, a letter from Camp Board Chairman Brother Charles Bednar was presented. The Camp Board was seeking advice and direction. While Sokol USA per se does not own Sokol Woodlands – Slovak Sokol Camp, Inc. does – the Supreme Lodge holds the mortgage. Thus, we are extremely interested in protecting our assets, protecting the membership while still maintaining the ideals of Sokol. What a fine line we walk. In response to the Camp Board's request, I appointed a committee to look at the camp's finances and to make a recommendation to the annual meeting of the Supreme Lodge.

We have come to a realistic crossroads. There is very little support for our camping program at Woodlands from our Sokol members. The weekend programs are wonderful. They bring together Sokols from three organizations in the real Sokol spirit. However, the reality is that weekends do not sustain the financial stability of the camp.

We have been asked about the "surplus" Sokol shows on our books. The economic crisis in our country has an effect on all.

See PRESIDENT, Page 6

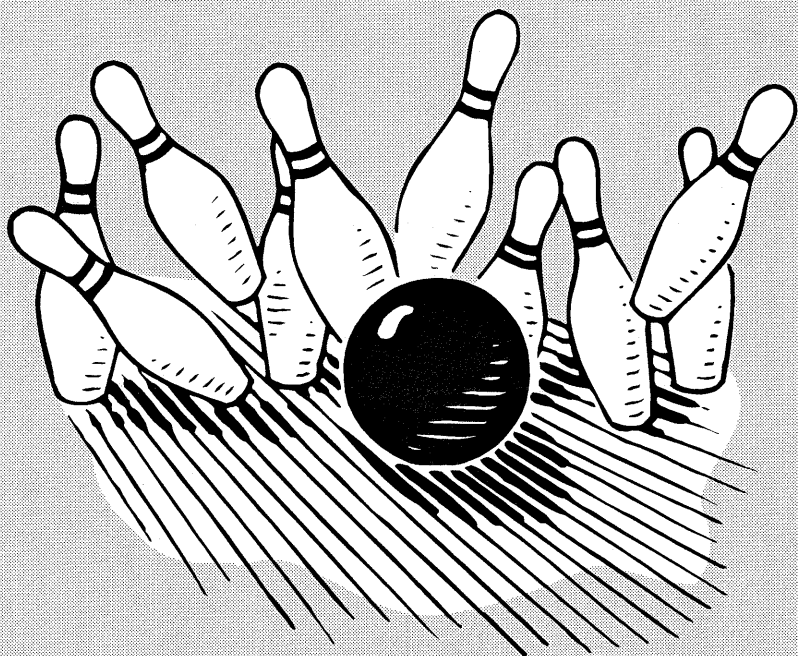
### 2009 Lodge 32 Officers

Alison Chada	President
Eric Skovronek	Vice President
Judy Bindas	Financial Secretary
James Lynch	Treasurer
Joan Ustupski	Secretary
Irene Karoly	Juvenile Chair
John Ustupski	House, Building & Grounds Chairman
Eric Kovronek	Director of Men
Pat Ritz	Director of Women
Kim Mazzi	Cheerleader
& Laurie Harvey	Co-Directors

## 61<sup>st</sup> Sokol USA National Bowling Tournament

Put May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> on your calendar  
And start making plans

To attend the 61<sup>st</sup> Annual National Bowling Tournament!



Hosted by Sokol USA Lodge 32,  
Boonton, NJ

Saturday, May 16:

Tentative Schedule:  
9AM and 12 Noon,  
Doubles & Singles events

Sunday, May 17:

Tentative Schedule:  
9 AM, four-bowler team events

See Pages 3 and 4 for more information.

# SOKOL TIMES

official organ of the  
SLOVAK GYMNASTIC UNION SOKOL  
OF THE USA

Published monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month.

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## District Meeting of MCT Corps Sokol USA, Pittsburgh, Pa.

# SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, April 26, 2009  
1 p.m.  
Clarion Hotel  
300 Tarentum Bridge Road  
Route 28, Exit 14  
New Kensington, Pa.

*Your lodge should be represented  
Hot Luncheon Buffet will be available*


Please send reservations by Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Thank You.  
Nazdar!  
Matthew M. Blistan Sr.  
President

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED		
To the Sokol USA Gymnastic Fund		
From Sokol USA Lodge 79, Mahanoy City, Pa. <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>		\$100.00
From Sokol USA Lodge 194, Raritan, NJ <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>		\$450.00
From Sokol USA Lodge 248, Rossbord, Ohio <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>		\$400.00
To the Milan Getting Scholarship Fund		
From Sokol USA Lodge 194, Raritan, NJ <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>		\$450.00
From Sokol USA Lodge 248, Rossbord, Ohio <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>		\$400.00
From Sokol USA Lodge 2, Bridgeport, Conn. <i>In Memory of Deceased Members</i>		\$200.00
From Milan S. Kovac <i>In Memory of Sister Helen Stolzmann</i>		\$50.00

Visit us at:  
**www.SokolUSA.org**

## BOONTON SOKOL LODGE UPCOMING EVENTS




**April 25, 6 p.m. – Murder Mystery Night**  
Adults \$12, Children \$6 (Babysitting included)

Spend the evening at Luigi’s Restaurant (Sokol Hall) and figure out who-done-it. Serving spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread, coffee, tea and dessert. Soda, beer and wine will be available. Reservations are recommended. Call Andrea at 973-945-5485.

**Super 50/50**

Tickets are \$5.00 each. Only 500 tickets will be sold. The grand prize will be drawn on April 25. For information, call Andrea at 973-945-5485.



**Friendship Club**  
Starts on January 16 and features a picnic on June 7. New members are welcome.

## Kent Dudince Sister City Association

# Sixth Annual Anniversary Banquet

Sunday, April 26, 2009

1 p.m. – Social Hour  
2 p.m. – Dinner  
3 p.m. – Program

**Kent Elks Lodge Hall**  
**Elks Lane, State Route 59**  
*(Behind the Twin Star Bowling Lanes, 2245 State Route 59)*

**Music by Johnny Pastirik Band during the Social Hour and Dinner**  
Featuring orchestra members Johnny Pastirik and Len Jacko

**Slovak Culture Program**

**The Pittsburgh Slovaks Folk Dance Ensemble**  
Directors: Sue and Rudy Ondrejco

**Slovenske Mamicky of Greater Cleveland Vocal Ensemble**  
Members are Milka Anderko, Maria Cvicela and Monica Smid

**Kent Roosevelt High School ACES – Advanced Choral Ensemble**  
Donna Crews, Director

***Dancing following the program***

**Tickets - \$15 per person; Advanced ticket sales only**  
Ticket orders will be mailed. Please include names of all guests.

Make checks payable and mail to:  
Kent-Dudince Sister City Association  
1544 Vine Street  
Kent, OH 44240

*For information, please call  
Rudy Bachna at 330-673-3255*

61<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL SOKOL U.S.A. NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT

May 16, 2009 through May 17, 2009  
USBC Moral Support Sanctioned  
USBC Sanction  
Entry Fee Per Event:  
Bowling \$ 7.75  
Prize Fee \$ 7.75  
Tournament Expense \$ 2.00  
TOTAL \$17.50



**BOONTON LANES**  
720 Myrtle Avenue, Boonton, NJ  
973-335-0123

**ENTRIES CLOSE: Midnight, May 1, 2009**

Entry Fee Payable to: Sokol 61<sup>st</sup> Bowling Tournament  
Send Entries to: Mary Backus  
42 Smith Road  
Denville, NJ 07834  
973-361-8228

The undersigned Team Captain hereby makes entry in this 61<sup>st</sup> Annual National Bowling Tournament of Sokol USA, May 16, 2009 through May 17, 2009, and agrees to comply with the rules which govern the Sokol USA Tournament.

The \_\_\_\_\_ Bowling  
Team of the \_\_\_\_\_ Sokol USA  
Lodge makes application for entry in the four-  
man/woman team competition.  
Combination Entry Blank  
  
Team Entry Fee: \$70.00  
Doubles Entry Fee: \$33.00  
Singles Entry Fee: \$16.50  
All Events Fee: \$ 1.00

	Sanction #	Name	Avg	Event	Time	
1				TEAM		CAPTAIN: LODGE:
2						ADDRESS:
3				SINGLES		CITY: STATE: ZIP:
4						TELEPHONE:
5				DOUBLES		

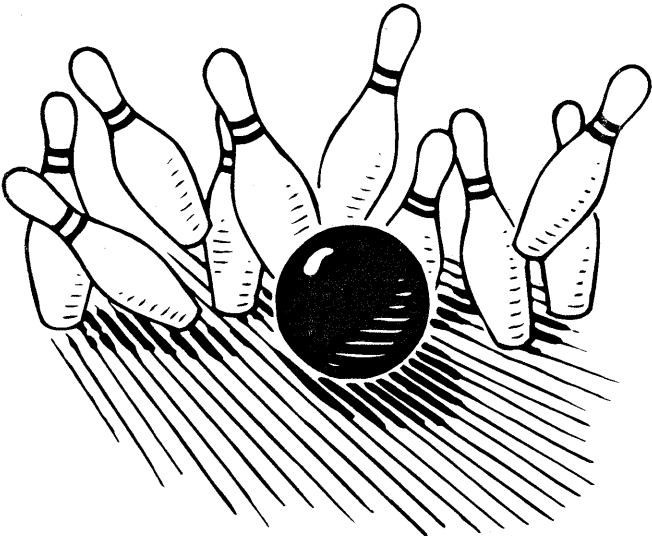
SINGLES	AVG	ENTRY FEE	DOUBLES	AVG	ENTRY FEE	ALL EVENTS	AVG	ENTRY FEE	TEAM	\$
			1						DOUBLES	\$
			2						SINGLES	\$
			1						ALL EVENTS	\$
			2							
			1							
			2						TOTAL	\$

NO FOOD OR BEVERAGES ARE  
PERMITTED IN THE BOWLING CENTER

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

2009 SOKOL USA NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT QUALIFICATIONS AND RULES

- All participants must be bona-fide members of Sokol USA as of December 31, 2008.
- Entrants will familiarize themselves with USBC Rule 319e. (Average Adjustment for Entry). *Infractions mean disqualification.*
- A bowler who has qualified for a prize of \$600 or more in any event in a tournament within the previous 12-month period must report their actual score, position and amount won for possible re-rating under USBC Rule 319d.
- Use **2007-2008** season's highest average of 21 games or more in USBC or USBC youth sanctioned leagues or if no 2007-2008 average use a current USBC league average of 21 games or more by 2/15/2009. Ten pin or over rule is in effect for this tournament (21 games as of 2/15/2009). Eligible bowlers with no average for current season may enter and bowl using **175** average for men and **140** average for women. As a moral sanction tournament you don't need to be a USBC member. If you wish to be eligible for USBC awards you must pay the appropriate USBC associate member dues.
- Participants may enter all or selected events.
- Entry fee is designated on front of application.
- Failure to use correct average shall disqualify score if submitted average is lower than correct average. Prize winnings shall be based on the submitted average if it is higher than the correct average. However, corrections in averages may be permitted up to the completion of the first game bowled.
- Ineligible participants will be responsible for disqualification of a team and its members in this tournament.
- No bowler is to participate more than once in any event, except host lodge as necessitated by needs of other lodges.
- All entries will be received in accordance with rules of the tournament.
- No fees will be refunded.**
- The All-Events Prize Fund is optional. The fee is \$1.00.
- Men bowlers will receive 100% of the difference between their average and 220 pins in each entry. Maximum 3-game handicap is 168 pins per event. Women bowlers will receive 100% of the difference and their average and 190 pins in each entry. Maximum 3-game handicap is 177 pins per event.
- Deadline for entries is May 1, 2009.
- Singles and Doubles will be bowled **Saturday May 16, 2009 at 9AM and Noon**. Team Event will be bowled **Sunday May 17, 2009 at 9AM**. Bowling will be held at The Boonton Lanes, Boonton, NJ.
- All awards fees will be returned 100%. Handicap scores will be 60% of prize moneys, while actual scores will comprise 40%. Prize ratio will be at least 1 in 8. Teams or individual bowlers will be awarded the highest prize for which they qualify in each event. Youth bowlers may not win prize moneys per rule #100, but will be awarded trophies in lieu of cash.
- All bowlers must present their 2008-2009 season USBC cards before the start of the tournament.
- Teams will be made up of 4 persons, four men or four women. No mixed 4-bower teams or doubles pairs.
- USBC rules will govern for any situation not covered by the above rules.



Lodging information  
is on Page 4.



# United Sokols of the East

## Bowling Tournament

February 21, 2009

### Senior Men

	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Total	Award
DA Sokol					
Philip Mincone	138	105	127	370	High Series 3 <sup>rd</sup> High Series
Matt Novas	161	228	136	525	
Gary Gurreri	120	165	146	431	
Andrew Femsit	145	148	112	405	
Marret Cooper	143	135	136	414	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Team
Total	707	781	657	2145	
Sokol USA					
John Backus	175	161	163	499	2 <sup>nd</sup> High Series
Jim Chada	116	135	161	412	
Jeff Gregory	118	134	120	372	
Eric Skovronek	167	98	106	371	
				294	
Total	576	528	550	1948	
ASO					
Brian Flaherty	110	101	127	338	
Joe Schiappa	122	108	96	326	

### Senior Women

	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Total	Award
Mixed Sokols					
Angelica Trojanowski	76	122	136	334	
Katherine Cooper	97	77	78	252	
Jeanette Baer	82	130	117	329	
Brandi Kovac	108	95	119	322	
Sokol USA					
Mary Backus	119	181	167	467	2 <sup>nd</sup> High Series
Kris Lombardi	108	106	138	352	
Pat Ritz	154	120	149	423	3 <sup>rd</sup> High Series
Alison Chada	110	153	138	401	
Helen Kobryn	156	200	160	516	High Series
Total	647	760	752	2159	1 <sup>st</sup> Place Team

### Junior Boys

	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Total	Award
Andrew (DA)	84	104	78	266	High Game
David G. (DA)	75	91	101	267	
James P. (DA)	127	30	83	240	
Ceasar F. (ASO)	69	76	97	242	
Moises R. (ASO)	82	93	97	272	

### Junior Girls

	Game 1	Game 2	Game 3	Total	Award
Missy (ASO)	61	81	66	208	
Kaylin (ASO)	71	112	63	246	
Stephanie (ASO)	66	65	47	178	
Jocelyn (ASO)	83	72	74	229	
Annemarie (ASO)	84	80	117	281	
Colleen (ASO)	91	75	78	244	
Erika (ASO)	63	50	78	191	Most Improved
Maddie S. (USA)	70	96	123	289	
Cindy (USA)	54	71	65	190	Low Game High Series
McKenna (USA)	49	30	50	129	
Shelby (USA)	116	93	115	324	
Maddie L. (USA)	54	68	70	192	

## Recommended Lodging

for the

## 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Sokol USA

## National Bowling Tournament

### Embassy Suites Parsippany

909 Parsippany Boulevard, Parsippany, NJ  
973-334-1440

### Fairfield Inn by Marriott

3535 Route 46 at Cherry Hill Road, Parsippany, NJ  
973-263-0095

A complete listing of Parsippany motels can be found  
online at [www.NewJerseySkylands.worldweb.com](http://www.NewJerseySkylands.worldweb.com)

## SOKOL USA FARRELL WELCOMES

## APPLICANTS FOR THE STEVE BANJAK

## MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

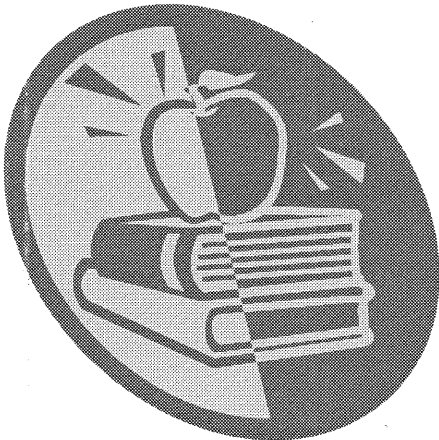
Brother Steve Banjak lived his whole life believing in and supporting the ideals of the Sokol movement founded by Dr. Miroslav Tyrš in the Czech Republic and established by Ivan Branislav Zoch in Slovakia. Brother Banjak was active in the gymnasium since he was introduced to Sokol when he was 14 years old and stopped only when his advanced age and health did not permit it. As President, he led Lodge 103 for a period of 50 years. Brother Banjak also held almost every office in District Svätopluk, including President. In 1958, he was President of the Committee responsible for the very successful XIII Slet held in Cleveland, Ohio.

The lodge has unanimously voted to name this scholarship in his honor as a way to remember him for his many years of service to Sokol. Previous recipients are: 2006 - Oleksandra Banjak; 2007 - Oleksandra Banjak; 2008 - Kathryn Shebeck.

Requirements to be eligible for the "Steve Banjak Memorial Scholarship" are as follows:

- A member in good standing of the Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol, USA in Farrell, Pa. for a minimum of three years.
- High School diploma or equivalent.
- Acceptance to an accredited four-year school of higher education with degree programs. A letter of acceptance to the college or university to which you plan to attend must accompany this application or if you are already attending a college or university, an official transcript must accompany this application.
- Two letters of reference from non-related persons (at least one from a former teacher) attesting to the character and ability of the applicant.
- The letters must accompany this application.
- The fully completed application and letters of reference must be sent by May 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
- Send the application and accompanying documents to Brother Melvin Slezak, Committee Chairman, 6850 Seneca Road, Sharpsville, PA 16150.
- The Scholarship will be announced at the Annual Meeting of Sokol USA Farrell, which is held on the first Sunday in June of each year.

Applications can be obtained from Brother Slezak at the above address, at a monthly lodge meeting held the first Thursday of each month at 7:15 p.m. or by calling Sokol USA Farrell at 724.342.1129 and leaving a message.



## WHO NEEDS MONEY FOR COLLEGE?

High School Seniors planning to attend college or current college students, Sokol USA's **Milan Getting Scholarship** is available to Sokol USA members!

Education is never something that should take a back seat. Improve your financial ability to attend college by applying for the Milan Getting Scholarship. Each year, Sokol USA is proud to award the Milan Getting Scholarship to Sokol USA members who are furthering their education. Contact Sokol USA Headquarters by phone or e-mail (1-888-253-0362 or [SOKOLUSAHQS@aol.com](mailto:SOKOLUSAHQS@aol.com)) and obtain an application and get ready to enjoy one of the benefits of being a Sokol USA member.

Applications for the 2009-2010 academic year must be received at Sokol USA by April 1, 2009. New scholarship recipients will be announced by June 1, 2009.

**Reminder: all current Milan Getting Scholarship recipients must submit a scholarship renewal application each year by June 29<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Sokol USA headquarters with any questions.**

Announcing

**The XXXIII CONVENTION**  
Of The  
**Slovak Gymnast Union Sokol**  
**of the U.S.A**

**August 2, 3, & 4, 2009**

To be held at:

**Wyndham Pittsburgh – University Place**  
**3454 Forbes Avenue**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

**The Gymnastic Department of SOKOL USA will conduct its Annual Meeting at this site on Saturday, August 1, 2009.**

The Convention is the highest legislative body and judicial tribunal for the Sokol U.S.A., and shall consist of Supreme Lodge officers, delegates of the local lodges, representatives of the districts, Honorary officers, appointive officers, and guest delegates.

Each lodge in good standing is entitled to one (1) delegate for every fifty (50) members in good standing or major fraction thereof as of December 31 of the year preceding the Convention. Each lodge having less than fifty (50) members is entitled to one (1) delegate. The Supreme Lodge will reimburse the traveling and lodging expenses of not more than two delegates per lodge.

The lodge delegate shall be an adult member in good standing of the lodge for at least one year.

Lodges, districts, or individual members having motions or suggestions for the good of the Sokol U.S.A., or petitions, shall forward the same on forms furnished by the Supreme Secretary, not later than sixty (60) days prior to the Convention, to the Supreme Secretary, who shall deliver the same to the appropriate convention committee.

We encourage the membership and lodge officers to begin planning and selecting delegates as promptly as possible. In addition, we encourage submission of motions or appeals at the earliest possible time so that these topics can then be presented to lodges and delegates prior to their departure to the Convention. It is the intent of the Supreme Lodge to have certain Convention Committees meet prior to the opening of the Convention, which will require the attendance of at least one additional day.

The tentative schedule of Convention events will be published in the of the SOKOL TIMES as soon as it becomes available.

**Nazdar!**

**Milan S. Kovac**  
**Supreme Secretary**

**Beatrice Walko**  
**Supreme President**



Convention Chairman Joseph Bielecki shows a picture of the Czechoslovak room, one of the many nationality rooms which will be open for tours during the cocktail party at the Convention.

**SPECIAL LOCATION PLANNED**  
**FOR CONVENTION COCKTAIL PARTY**

One of the features of the August 2009 Sokol USA Convention will be a cocktail party and private tour of the Nationality Rooms at the Cathedral of Learning, the main campus building of the University of Pittsburgh.

The cocktail party will be held on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 p.m. in the posh Croghan-Schenley Room, which is used for very special university events. The room resembles a miniature Versailles with a décor of marble, elaborate crystal chandeliers and antique French furniture.

During the cocktail party, there will be two tours of the Nationality Rooms. The rooms ring the first and third floors of the Cathedral of Learning. The cocktail party will be on the first floor of the building. The tours will be given at 5:15 and 6 p.m. and will be led by students from the university who are professional guides to the rooms.

The party will also have music by Mark Stafura, a former Duquesne University Tamburitza and member of the Veselica Ensemble.

The cocktail party will be a great opportunity to relax, socialize and renew old Sokol friendships.

**SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT**  
**MILAN GETTING SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

A new feature of this year's Convention will be a silent auction during the banquet to benefit the Milan Getting Scholarship Program.

Convention Chair Joe Bielecki and Banquet Chair Justine West wanted to add something new to the customary Convention banquet. The silent auction was chosen as a way to promote fraternalism and to assist the scholarship program which benefits young Sokol members.

Any individual or lodge interested in donating a prize or a basket should contact Brother Bielecki at 412-390-0900 or Sister West at 412-242-5666 to coordinate the delivery of any auction donations. All items must be physically present prior to the start of the convention banquet. Individual objects may be grouped together to form larger theme baskets. This will be a fun way to help the scholarship program.

**SOKOL USA HELPS MUSEUM IN BRNO**

October 28, 1918, was Independence Day for Czechoslovakia. The three pillars that helped to create the Czechoslovak state were Thomas Masaryk, the Sokol and the Czechoslovak legionnaires. Both Slovakia and the Czech Republic staged many celebrations throughout the end of 2009 to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of Czechoslovakia.

Sokol USA helped mark those celebrations. Brother Joe Bielecki was approached by American Sokol members from Baltimore who

were working with the Museum of the Czechs and Slovaks in Exile in Brno to help with an exhibition marking the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Brothers Bielecki and Milan Kovac and Sokol USA President Bea Walko assisted the exhibition by sending a digital copy of Sokol USA's Pittsburgh Agreement to the museum.

The museum used the digital media to print a huge copy of the Agreement, which was one of the centerpieces of the museum's exhibition.

**Sokol USA Lodge 306,**  
**Chicago, Ill.**

Sokol Lodge 306 will hold its annual Palm Sunday Brunch at the Sokol Community Center, located at 4855 North Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60630, on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Brunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Reservations are suggested. Please contact Harriet Kelly at 773-736-7229.

Sokol Lodge 306 will hold its annual Gymnastics Exhibition at the Sokol Community Center, located at 4855 North Elston Ave., Chicago, IL 60630, on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. Dinner and dancing will be held immediately after the exhibition. Please contact Bryan Pracko for more information.





Brother Joseph Bielecki shows off the Pittsburgh Agreement at the Senator John Heinz History Center. He was a guest speaker at a program commemorating the return of a copy of the Agreement to Pittsburgh.

## HOMECOMING FOR PITTSBURGH AGREEMENT

The end of 2008 saw a celebration in Pittsburgh marking the return to Pittsburgh of the Pittsburgh Agreement, which laid the foundation for the creation of modern Czechoslovakia.

The Senator John Heinz History Center, which was the 2007 SokolFest Banquet venue, hosted a ceremony to mark the return of the Agreement. The History Center holds the copy of the Agreement that originally belonged to the Slovak Catholic Sokol. The Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association co-sponsored the ceremony.

As part of the ceremony, Brother Joe Bielecki, a member of Sokol USA's Supreme Lodge and President of the Western Pennsylvania Slovak Cultural Association, gave a speech on the historic importance of the Pittsburgh Agreement. Brother Matt Blistan, President of Sokol USA District MCT and a board member of the WPSCA, attended the event along with Sokol USA members Amelia Blistan, Jerry Blistan and Pat Blistan.

## LUCINA CONCERT

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Lucina Slovak Folklore Ensemble Tri-Concert was held in November 2008 in Parma. The host ensemble, Lucina of Cleveland, had a contribution of fine numbers by their senior group. The junior group has made a great deal of progress in the past several years and danced with enthusiasm and improved ability.

Sarisan Slovak Folk Ensemble from the Detroit area displayed outstanding professionalism. Their men and women, with beautiful Slovak costume changes, displayed a variety of dances from several Slovak regions. The difficulty and skill level was of the highest degree. Kent Dudince Sister City Association congratulates the dancers and their director, Milan Straka.

Veselica Slovak Ensemble from the Chicago area was a highlight of the evening with their full orchestra that included cymbals, violins and other instruments. They presented dances from various areas of Slovakia, including Liptov, Coral, Zemplin, Spis and Detva. Veselica Ensemble is under the direction of Pavel Melic.

The large audience, wonderful meal and excellent program by these three ensembles were thoroughly enjoyed by those members of Kent Dudince Sister City Association in the audience.

## LODGE 2 BRIDGEPORT ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Lodge 2, Bridgeport, Sokol USA has continued and improved its scholarship program for high school graduates, it was announced by Lodge president Miguel Alicea.

"This year up to two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors accepted for admission to an accredited four-year college/university who are Slovak or Carpatho-Russian descent and residents of Bridgeport, Stratford, Trumbull or Shelton, Connecticut," said Alicea.

"Criteria to be used in judging are overall merits of applicants, cumulative grade average, community activities, college acceptance, financial need and essay content," he continued.

"The essay content," said Lodge secretary John Kamenitsky, "is somewhat unique. Rather than the usual 'why do I want this award,' we are asking the applicants to discuss the history, culture or traditions of Slovak or Carpatho-Russian heritage or stories about their ancestors in Slovakia."

"We hope to encourage the applicants to study the history, customs and traditions of their forefathers in Slovakia," he concluded.

Applications were sent to all high schools and churches in the area and are available from the Lodge at [jkamenitsky@snet.net](mailto:jkamenitsky@snet.net).



**SLOVAK FESTIVAL** – Sokol USA had a display table at the recent Slovak Festival. At the festival were John and Justine West, Matt and Amelia Blistan, Joseph Bielecki and Cecilia Sarocky.



## From the President's View

(Continued from Page 1)  
Fraternal, whose money is invested, must deal with declining investment income. How blessed we are in Sokol USA to have a cushion to rely on. That cushion did not just happen by luck. The conservative management of Sokol by Brothers Sopocij and Kovac has enabled us to survive. Our first and foremost obligation is to protect the assets of our members. In addition, we have supported our gymnastic program to the fullest extent. Some would argue that we should have gone further.

Over the course of the years, we have had many, many volunteers who dedicated countless hours at our Sokol camps. I would be remiss in listing any for fear of omitting many. As a result of their selfless dedication, many of us enjoyed happy times at a Sokol Camp. Many thanks to all those who worked so hard to keep Sokol ideals alive. Maybe, just maybe, along the way we lost those ideals or maybe we are just part of our changing global society.

The Camp Board will be meeting in April to discuss the future of Sokol Woodlands. If you have any suggestions, we would love to hear from you: e-mail me at [Sokolprez@aol.com](mailto:Sokolprez@aol.com) or send a

note to headquarters. Those who have lived through the closing of their camp know the heartache that is associated with such a move. However, without more interest in our Camp few other options remain.

Believe it or not, summer is soon upon us. I hope you are making arrangements for attending the ASO Slet in Texas

and of course, the Sokol USA Convention in Pittsburgh.

We send our wishes and our Sokol Nazdar Brother John Bagel, former Vice President of Sokol USA, and hope that he is on the road to recovery.

I remain with our Sokol greeting,  
making arrangements for  
attending the ASO Slet in Texas  
Bea Walko

## WEB SITES ABOUT SLOVAKIA

Slovak Embassy, Washington, D.C.  
[www.slovakembassy-us.org](http://www.slovakembassy-us.org)

U.S. Embassy, Bratislava, Slovakia  
[www.usembassy.sk](http://www.usembassy.sk)

General Information on Slovakia  
[www.slovensko.com](http://www.slovensko.com)

Office of Government in Slovakia  
[www.government.gov.sk](http://www.government.gov.sk)

Slovak Trade and Development Agency  
[www.sario.sk](http://www.sario.sk)

Slovaks and Slovakia  
[www.slovak.com](http://www.slovak.com)

Slovak Tourist Board  
[www.sacr.sk](http://www.sacr.sk)



Sokol  
Social  
News

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

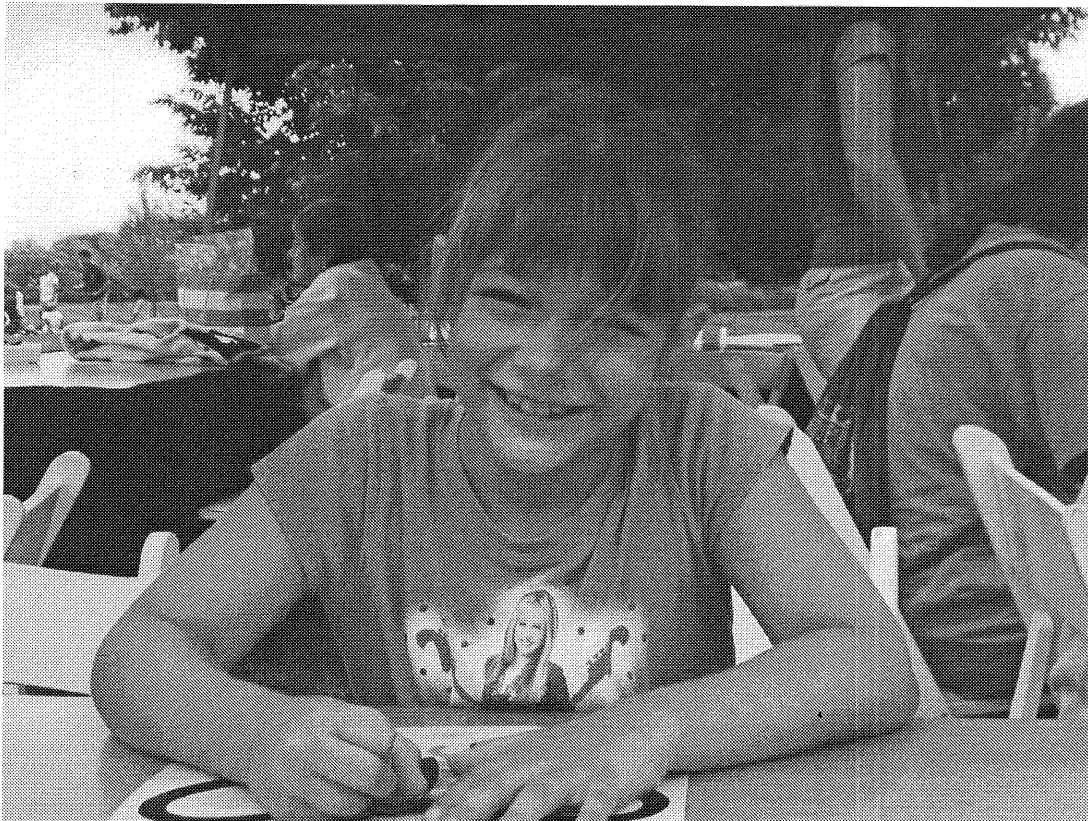
Frank Babic, a resident of Monroe, N.C., and a member of Sokol USA Lodge 114, celebrated his 91<sup>st</sup> birthday on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

SIMPLY SLAVIC  
FESTIVAL

The Simply Slavic Festival was held at the St. Michael Byzantine Catholic Church Hall in Akron, Ohio. Kent Dudince Sister City Association President Rudy Bachna arrived in the morning to set up the organization's displays and the food line was already full. At his departure in the early evening, the food line was still full. An estimate of 700 to 1,000 people was in attendance.

The music was excellent with several bands rotating throughout the day. Slovak musical selections and songs were played. A children's group did an excellent job in their presentation of Slovak and Slavic dances. The display boards from KDSC were in a prominent place and were enjoyed by many.

My Favorite Place



By Samantha Pracko  
Age 8

My favorite place is Sokol Woodlands in New York. That is where I do my gymnastics camp. I do STAR camp. I like it because our chef makes really good food. There is also a great pool, good gym to work out in. There is also camp fires, capture the flag and morning hikes. Cabins for me and the rest of the girl star campers. I also like it because there is a rec room and we go there every day for free time. We either go there or the pool. It's a great place for gymnastics camp and I couldn't ask for a better place for it.

CZECH SLOVAK  
AMERICAN CLUB  
OF TUCSON

In February, the Club showed the new documentary film from Lenka Parizkova about Moravia. Thank you, Lenka, for bringing it fresh from the Czech Republic.

For the March meeting, the Bouncing Czechs performed. Hana Kleteckova prepared knedlo, vepro zelo – pork roast, dumplings and sauer kraut, and Pilsner Urquell or Golden Pheasant – or both.

Meetings will continue to be held at 1:30 p.m. at 1330 South Mountain View in Tucson on the second Sunday of each month except in the summertime. Please bring items to donate for the raffle and side dishes to complement the meal. Having enough food is a priority. Czech and Slovak beers will be on sale.

Volunteers for Setup/Cleanup

Volunteers are appreciated to help set up the room as well as clean up afterwards at the monthly meetings. Please consider coming early to help and to make some new friends. We begin setting up at noon. Thanks to those that have been helping.

Language Classes Offered

The Department of Critical Languages at the University of Arizona will have Czech language classes next fall. Contact Martin Lebl at 520-850-9213 for more information. Martin also provides individualized lesson plans. Czech is a Western Slavonic language spoken by about 12 million people. Czech is closely related to Slovak, Polish, and Serbian. The region where Czech is spoken is traditionally called Bohemia and is named after a tribe, who, according to the Romans, inhabited the area since at least the 1st century AD.

SOKOL ALUMNI 2009 REUNION

This is the time for a gallant Sokol to step forward to take the baton to orchestrate the next Reunion of old colleagues in the gymnastic world of Sokol.

While the previous committee members have not reneged, it is felt some new people can enjoy the fun of planning this exciting event. I am ready and willing to give support with all the experience gained at the 2006 event.

Please contact me with your interest in getting on board to host a summer 2009 Sokol Reunion at Sokol Woodlands in Barryville, N.Y.

Adelaide Darula - 203-531-9532 - adelkadarula@aol.com

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

ENGAGEMENTS,  
WEDDINGS &  
ANNIVERSARIES



NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOMETOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
SOKOL LODGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
YEARS MARRIED (IF APPLICABLE): \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAYS



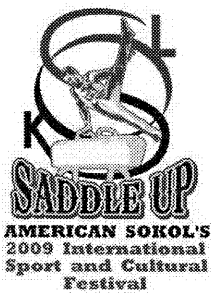
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
BIRTH DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
AGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOMETOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
SOKOL LODGE: \_\_\_\_\_

PROMOTIONS,  
HONOR ROLLS &  
OTHER EVENTS



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_  
HOMETOWN: \_\_\_\_\_  
SOKOL LODGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EVENT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Photographs are not required, but they do add to the presentation.  
Please include a self addressed, stamped envelope if you would like your photograph returned.



# The 2009 International Sport and Cultural Festival

## June 23 to 29, 2009

### Forth Worth, Texas

#### Welcome

American Sokol has joined forces with USA Gymnastics, Pan American Gymnastics, Union Gymnaestrada, Special Olympics and others to create a week-long extravaganza of sport, recreation, culture and fitness. Each organization will be holding its own competitions and activities for all to enjoy in the Fort Worth Convention Center.

American Sokol Slet events will include artistic and rhythmic gymnastics, volleyball, basketball, bowling, team marching and calisthenics, a fun walk/run, fitness challenge, golf tournament and, of course, our demonstration of mass calisthenics.

Combined events will include the opening and closing ceremonies, an exhibition gala showcase, a parade in downtown Fort Worth, socials and vendor displays.

We would be honored to have you and your organization present for all or part of this upcoming event as a participant or as a spectator. A tentative schedule of events and housing information follows.

You can also visit our website, [www.2009iscfestival.com](http://www.2009iscfestival.com), to view updated information on the event and view a wonderful promotional video.

Please extend an invitation to all of your staff and friends and extend a hearty Sokol greeting from all of us at American Sokol. This event promises to be a dynamic international gathering where bonds of friendship will be strengthened or forged anew.

We look forward to having you "Saddle Up" with us in June 2009.

Nazdar!  
Larry Laznovsky  
President, American Sokol

#### Tentative Schedule

<b>Monday, June 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	
7 PM	Coaches and VIP Reception
<b>Tuesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	
12 Noon	Coaches Meeting
3 PM	Fun Run/Walk
5 PM	Opening Ceremony Rehearsal
7 PM	Opening Ceremonies
10 PM	Evening Social
<b>Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup></b>	
8 AM	Volleyball
10AM	Team Marching
5 PM	Sokol/USAG Gala Rehearsal
7 PM	Sokol/USAG Gala
10 PM	Awards Ceremony Social
<b>Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup></b>	
7 AM	Golf Tournament
7 AM	Artistic Gymnastics Competition – Children
11 AM	Artistic Gymnastics Competition – Jr./Sr.
3 PM	Artistic Gymnastics Competition – Opt. Lvs.
5 PM	Pan American Gymnastics Rehearsal
5 PM	Archery Competition
7 PM	Junior/Children Social
7 PM	Pan American Gymnastics Gala
10 PM	Awards Ceremony Social
<b>Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup></b>	
8 AM	Downtown Main Street Parade
12 Noon	Fitness Challenge, Female
12 Noon	Archery Competition
12 Noon	3-on-3 Basketball
12 Noon	Artistic Gymnastics Special Olympics
2 PM	Fitness Challenge, Children
4 PM	Fitness Challenge, Male
7 PM	Slet Program Rehearsal
10 PM	Awards Ceremony Social
<b>Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup></b>	
8 AM	Artistic Gymnastics Competition – Children
8 AM	Archery Competition
12 Noon	Bowling Championships
7 PM	Slet Program Performance
10 PM	Final Awards Ceremony Social
<b>Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup></b>	
8 AM	Farewell Texas Social at Sokol Fort Worth

#### Housing Information

Omni Fort Worth Hotel  
1300 Houston Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76102  
Phone: 817-535-6664  
Fax: 817-882-8140

Rooms can be booked by individuals by going to the web site. The special code needed for our rate will be automatically entered when booking here.

<http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/FortWorth/MeetingFacilities/2009InternationalSportsandCulturalFestival6.aspx>

The hotel is located directly across the street from the Convention Center.



A postcard promotes the 2009 American Sokol Slet at the International Sport and Cultural Festival this June in Fort Worth, Texas.

#### Sokol Participant Card

The National Board of Instructors and the Slet Committee have been feverishly working to make the International Sport and Cultural Festival an Event to Remember. We are excited and pleased that many of you have made your plans to attend or are in the process of doing so. To better serve you, we are sending this information request so that you have a better opportunity to take advantage of early registration discounts.

The "Sokol Participant Card" is a new concept for Sokol Slets and includes "primary activities" for each athlete for a discounted fee. These activities include such things as entrance to the opening ceremonies, Stockyards social and Pan American Gymnastics Union Gala, performance in Slet calisthenics and the finale (including a T-shirt), free use of local buses, parade participation, etc. The value of this card is over \$125. If purchased before April 1<sup>st</sup>, the card cost is \$50 and after April 1<sup>st</sup> the card cost is \$65. This card is required for all individuals competing in artistic, rhythmic, volleyball, basketball, team cal and marching and competitive fitness challenge, etc., as well as those performing in the Slet Program, calisthenics/folk dance, and "Let Loose" finale (which includes a T-shirt). Fees for competition and other events are considered "add ons." For example, if a person wants to compete in rhythmic, they would get the "Sokol Participation Card" for \$50 before April 1<sup>st</sup> and then pay a \$35 "add on" fee to compete.

We strongly urge you to purchase all Sokol Participant Cards before April 1<sup>st</sup>. Although we would appreciate having all participant names submitted now, as well, you can submit the names by May 15<sup>th</sup> along with the final entry fees a release forms. The Sokol Participant Card will include an ID photo of the participant so ID photos for all participants will also need to be submitted. The procedure for submitting the ID photos will be outlined in the future.

The "All Access Spectator Card" includes entrance to opening ceremonies, participant social, Slet performance, free use of local buses, etc. The value of this card is \$122 and the cost is \$80. Although we would prefer early purchase of the All Access Spectator Card as well, the purchase cost is fixed (no early discount will be given).

Actual entry forms will be sent on or about March 1<sup>st</sup> to all units, lodges and groups that submit a Participation survey. The deadline to submit those entry forms will be May 15<sup>th</sup>, which is also the deadline for all individual participant Information and Release Forms, ID photos, etc.

Copies of the forms and materials are available from the American Sokol Board of Instructors at [american-sokol.org/boi](http://american-sokol.org/boi).

For more information, please contact Barb Vondra, Director of Women, at [topinkyd1@aol.com](mailto:topinkyd1@aol.com) or Chuck Kalat, Director of Men, at [ckalat@aol.com](mailto:ckalat@aol.com).

#### IS YOUR FAMILY COVERED?

Insurance coverage for all family members is an essential part of personal financial planning. Don't put off taking care of this responsibility.

See your lodge Financial Secretary or call Sokol Headquarters toll free at 1-888-253-0362 for additional information or membership applications.

#### 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.*

**MILDRED STRBAK** (1920-2009) – A member of Lodge 68, Blairsville, Pa. She is survived by her niece, June King.

**JOHN JOSEPH** (1915-2009) – A member of Lodge 19, Derby, Conn. He is survived by his wife, Anna Joseph; his children and grandchildren.

**ROBERT M. DRACH** 91931-2009) – A member of Lodge 269, Whiting, Ind. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, Drach.

**CATHERINE M. HALLAHAN** (1918-2009) – A member of Lodge 66W in Bethlehem, Pa. She is survived by her children and grandchildren.