



3909 S. Prairie Avenue

December 2015

Brookfield, IL 60513-2143

Moving? Please let us know your new address!
Contact:

Dorothy Becker
340 Lake Shore Drive North
Barrington, IL 60010-3425

BeckerD9749@SBCglobal.net

Check out our website:

www.sokolspirit.org

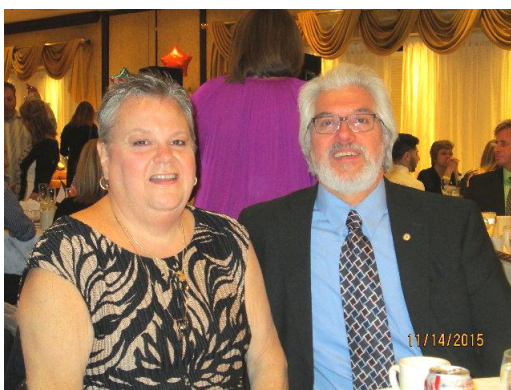
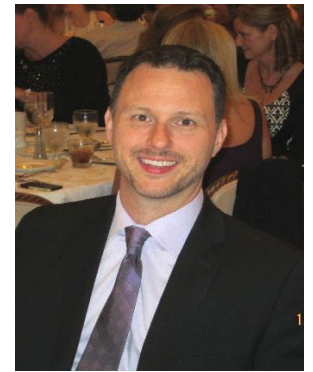
150th Anniversary Celebration – November 13-14

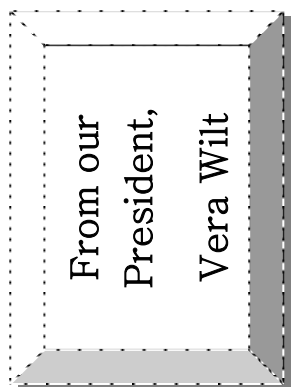


Q: How does Santa take photos?

A: With his North Pole-roid

*Thanks to Pat Satek for
most of the photos on this
page and the next.*





Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Sokol Spirit Brothers and Sisters!

2015 has been quite an exciting Sokol year and here are some Sokol Spirit highlights:

- We had a great showing of 17 Men and Women from our unit compete in Gymnastics.
- *Many of our members participated in various celebrations of the 150th Birthday of Sokol in America both in St. Louis and Chicagoland. Our members also served on planning committees, and many volunteered in various capacities. Some photos from the 150th Anniversary festivities are included in this newsletter.*

- 3 women's teams and 2 men's teams represented Sokol Spirit in the 150th Volleyball Tournament.
- *Our 1st and 2nd Class Girls' Special Numbers were recently recognized with Certificates for Choreography by the World Sokol Federation.*
- In July we hosted a wonderful group of young people in training as Sokol instructors at the National Instructor School. 50 people living in our building 24/7 for two weeks, and eating 3 squares a day. I extend sincere thanks to all the volunteers who made it possible.
- *Our Wheels program sent a competitor and two judges to Italy for the world competitions. They also participated in 2 holiday parades downtown.*
- We elected 2 of our recent college graduates who were returning to our Women's class to serve in a Public Relations role. We continue to engage our young people.
- *The Women's class entered its Special Number in the district competition (another young person's doing). Got out of our comfort zone!*
- Our Mommy and Me 2 class found participants and expanded our age of participants.
- *Our Spin classes were popular enough to expand our inventory of bikes and meet twice per week.*
- A new fundraiser, a vendor fair, had great success despite a challenging weather day.
- *A traditional fundraiser, the rummage sale, produced good results and spread the wealth to other organizations, while deciding the October 2015 sale would be the last.*

Of course, we also had many of our athletes win medals and trophies and other honors in various competitions. Our Czech classes, movies, cultural evenings and many other fundraisers had great success as well.

For these and so many other victories, I am very grateful to our officers, instructors and volunteers. Without all of you, we could not offer the wide variety of programs for all ages. May the New Year bring good health and prosperity to all our members and families.

Make a resolution to get involved in Sokol. We have a number of fun things early in the year, and many hands make light work, so don't be afraid to volunteer. The more people who help, the smaller the burden on each.

Na Zdar,
President Vera A. Wilt

1st and 2nd class girls and boys – Halloween party – October 29



Spaghetti Dinner – November 7



Men's and Women's Volleyball – Season Wrap-up

For the 150th Anniversary Tournament held on November 14 at the Max, Sokol Spirit had 3 women's teams and 2 men's teams. (The women's teams' names were *Team All About That Ace*, *Don't Bump to Strangers*, and *Set For Life*). Unfortunately, no awards were received.

As for district tournaments held this fall our junior girls had one team. No awards here, either. The men's tournament ended Friday, December 11. The men had 3 teams which included a men/junior boy mixed team. Unfortunately, nothing to brag about here either.

Not a very good year for Spirit volleyball for awards but, if you want to look at silver linings, everyone had a great time participating in some friendly competition (and a little rivalry at times). . . and there's always next year! (spoken by a true Cubs fan) If you haven't been out to see a game, make a point to come out to a game or two next fall and support our juniors', men's and women's teams!



Q: Why couldn't the volleyball player cross the road? A: Too many bumps!

Q: Why did Cinderella get cut from the volleyball team? A: She kept running away from the ball.

Boys Skills Day and Competition – December 5



Junior board update

We hope you took the opportunity to let us help you wrap your gifts or watch your kids while you did it. If not, don't worry: 2016 will have lots of other opportunities for you to help us out. World's Finest Chocolates, Car Wash coupons, Partylite Candles and, of course, the Basket Raffle at Exhibition are all things that we are looking into for 2016 fundraising. With an upcoming Slet, we are thinking outside the box. As always, we thank you for your support and hope you have a happy and healthy holiday season.

From the Youth Ambassador – Linda Baran

Everyone should have received their first newsletter already, and if you are new to us, your passport should have arrived, too. If you'd like to participate in the December contest, please do. Your classes will be helping you participate in the January contest. With that will come a passport sticker so find your books!! Skills Day and Rhythmics are now behind us. In the new year's classes you will begin or continue working on the cal's and special numbers. If you'd like to send a separate entry in for the January contest please do. You can work on it over the break using family members instead of classmates. I can't wait to see the entries!! I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. See you in 2016!!!



This photo (left) of Sis. Alix Wilt and some of her 1st class girls was taken at the Track and Field meet held in September by Carolyn Morriss. There were other Track and Field photos in the last newsletter but I couldn't fit this one in. However, this is one of my favorite photos and I found some space in this newsletter to share with you. Thanks, Carolyn. And the one on the right, from the 150th Anniversary banquet, is one of my personal faves, too. ☺ If you have any photos you'd like to share, please send them my way (spiritnews@hotmail.com)

World Beer Club – 3rd Friday of each month @ 8:00 p.m. (note time change)



January 15

February 18

March 18

Join Sokol Spirit once a month as we enjoy the vast variety of the Beers from around the World. \$10 Cover Charge Per Participant (must be 21 or older) includes a Flight of 6 Beers. Each month will feature beers/tasters from a different region. Beers will be rated by all tasters. Receive Punch card to earn a free month. Food item tasters will be coordinated with the featured region.

RSVP Appreciated 3 Days Prior to Each Event 708-692-8350

info@sokolspirit.org

Czech Beer Fest – January 16, 2016 – Sokol Tabor

ČESKÉ PIVNÍ SLAVNOSTI
CZECH BEER Festival

Saturday, January 16
12:00 pm - 12:00 am

DOBROVSKÝ CLUB
EST. 1903
CZECHOSLOVAK MASON

United Moravian Societies
www.CzechMoravianSocieties.org

Moravian Cultural Society

Sokol Tabor

Sokol Spirit

Vino z Czech

Pilsner Urquell

Czechvar
Premium Czech Lager

Children's Entertainment 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Sokol Tabor Hall
1602 Clarence Ave, Berwyn, IL 60402
Beer, Wine, Food, Music & More!
For More Info Visit www.chicagocacc.org

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CHICAGO, IL

Stickney

CZECHOSLOVAK AMERICAN CONGRESS

CZECHOSLOVAK ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS

Sokol Spirit, featured in the left column, is one of the sponsoring organizations of the Czech BeerFest on Saturday, January 16. Sokol Spirit has tickets available for \$20 in advance, \$25 will be charged at the door. Members and friends can contact Howie Maskill for the tickets. hmaskil22@yahoo.com or 708-692-8350.

Sokol Spirit Pancake Breakfast – January 24

7:00a.m. – noon

**Breakfast Includes: Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs,
Sausage, Coffee and Juice – YUM!!**

ALL YOU CAN EAT!!!

Adults \$8.00, Children (Under 12) \$4.00

Tickets available at the door



Sokol Spirit goes high tech!

Do you need to pay membership dues or class fees? Do you want to make a donation? Or pay for your pancake tickets? Good news for some of our members! It is now possible to pay Sokol Spirit for certain things online. You can access it from our home page at Sokolspirit.org which will take you to the payment page:

<https://squareup.com/store/sokolspirit>. Currently we have four options on there: Membership Dues, Class Fees, Pancake Breakfast and Donations.

Attention members: Sokol Spirit Dues, hall use, and Falcon Key Club

2016 annual dues are due January 1, but are payable now! Don't forget about that late fee. Dues letters are in the mail. Regular dues are still \$70. Students are \$45. If you are a 60-year member or more, you owe no dues to Spirit, but we are asking you to help pay our assessments to the Central District and National Office of \$47. Dues can be paid by check, credit card, and at our website sokolspirit.org.

Also, did you know that as a member you can use our hall for personal parties? The asking donation for use of the hall has been lowered to \$100. The only stipulation is that you clean up after your event and leave the hall in the same, or better, shape than when you found it. Call Bro. Mark Shrofe for more information at 708-485-9663 and leave a message, or visit our website sokolspirit.org.

Please remember the Falcon Key Club in your end-of-year donations. The 2016 enrollment continues through the end of December. Please send donations of \$25, \$50, \$100, or \$125 per person to Dorothy Becker at 340 Lake Shore Drive North, Barrington, IL 60010 by December 31 to ensure your name is included in our Exhibition ad book. Join the group who want to do a little extra to help keep our Spirit alive. If you have any questions, please contact Dorothy Becker at 847-842-0390 or beckerd9749@sbcglobal.net. Thank you!



SUNSHINE REPORT from Sis. Blanche Wostratzky
BWOSTRATZKY@SBCGLOBAL.NET or 708-788-4644



← Congratulations to Debbie and Ryan Shields on the birth of their baby boy, Donovan. He was born November 9, 2015 at 2:09 p.m. and weighed 8lbs, 15oz. Best wishes to the Shields family.

Sis. Blanche Wostratzky went to Albuquerque, New Mexico to her sister-in-law's for a visit since her brother, Jim, passed away 2 ½ years ago. There was a Balloon Fiesta for 8 days. Don and his wife, Bonnie, tagged along for part of those 8 days. What a spectacular sight to see all the balloons flying one by one. This Albuquerque Fiesta is the very largest in the world – balloons come from parts of



Europe, Thailand, Australia, Chile, etc. Approximately 300,000 people attended this year's festival. Five years ago, Blanche and her niece, Donna, went up with one of the balloons. Exciting, nevertheless, even watching all of the balloons entering the sky above. The balloons are not only round like a person would think, but different shapes --like a "Pirate Ship" that contained 500,000 cubic feet of air, stretching 128 feet long and 102 feet high. There were 560 balloons in this year's Annual Fiesta. The family spent 2 ½ days at the 44th Fiesta, and another 6 days with various sights to see in the Southwest territory.



CZECH LANGUAGE/CONVERSATION CLASSES

Sokol Spirit, 3909 Prairie, Brookfield

MONDAYS, 7:00–8:30pm, **BASIC CZECH CONVERSATION & GRAMMAR: 8 weeks** \$155 per Session/Minimum 3 students. Session II: January 11, 2016 – February 29; Session III: April 4, 2016 -May 23; Textbook: Basic Czech I by Ana Adamovicova and Darina Ivanovova (Amazon \$18) Note: Translations offered following class - appointment preferred.

WEDNESDAYS, 7:00–8:30pm, **INTERMEDIATE CZECH CONVERSATION & GRAMMAR: 12 Wks** \$140 per Student/Minimum 5 students. Session II: January 6. 2016 – March 23; Session III: April 6 – June 22. Textbook: Basic Czech.

Please Note: If the minimum number of students is not reached, the number of lessons may be shortened. Discount with advance payment, please ASK. If paid in advance, please mail check to Sokol Spirit c/o Czech Language Class.

CZECH CULTURAL CLASSES in the English Language

3rd TUESDAYS of the Month 7:00-8:30pm through June 21, 2016 \$5 per person includes 1st pilsner, water bottle, or pop free NOTE: Extra fees apply when there is a hands-on activity...please preregister so supplies can be ordered and you are not disappointed.

- January: Czech History Monuments-Vysehrad, Prague Castle, Karlstejn, Hora Rip
 - February: Bozena Nemcova and Revival movement
 - March: Easter traditions-egg decorating+
 - April: Folklore/Open-air museums
 - May: Maj-month of Lovers
 - June: Unesco Sites
- JOIN US IN LIVELY CONVERSATION and perhaps learning new family traditions.

Questions? Email mktooke830@gmail.com

Sokol Spirit First Friday Czech Films.....from Sokol Spirit's Foreign Language Committee. The series continues this Spring. . . a \$5 donation with free pilsner, water, or pop. Each film has handouts and is accompanied by our head Czech language teacher, Pavlina Dropka, except where indicated.

January 1 – No First Friday film ☹

February 5 Cunning Little Vixen Opera by Leos Janacek done in comic strip animation by Rudolf Tesnochldek (G; 98 minutes; 2009 w 8 minute interview with animator)

March 4 Beauty in Trouble/Kraska v nesnazich (R; 109 minutes; 2009) Surviving 2002 Floods

April 1 Alois Nebel-Animation (PG-13; 84 minutes; 2013) Railway station life at the end of the Cold War

May 6 The Valley of the Bees/ Udoli Vcel (PG-13; 96 minutes; 1967 B/W) 13th century historical drama

June 3 Capricious Summer/Rozmarne Leto (PG; 74 minutes; 1967) Romantic Comedy between friends at the Lake cottage.

Sokol Spirit is a 501(C)(3) not-for-profit organization. Questions? Email mktooke830@gmail.com



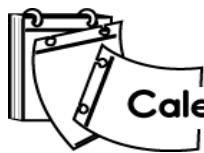
Our Sokol families are awesome! Got any good news to share? Did your kid accomplish something great? Did you? Graduation? Anniversary or Birthday? Special event? Drop me a note and maybe a photo and it may be included in a future newsletter. *We can't wait to hear from you!*

Spiritnews@hotmail.com



~ MEMORIAL FUND ~

Please send any Memorial Fund and Newsletter Fund items to the attention of Kathe Heetel, 1233 Woodside, LaGrange Park, IL 60526 for inclusion in the newsletter.



Calendar of Events

First Wednesday

Sokol Spirit Unit Meeting 7:30pm

Third Monday

Sokol Spirit BOI Meeting 7:30pm

January 2016:

Starting December 18 – Holiday Break

January 4, 2016 – Classes resume

January 8 – First Friday film

January 22 – World Beer Club

January 24 – Pancake Breakfast 7:00-noon

February 5 – Paint Party (see website)
(canvasses, not walls) ☺

Save the Dates:

March 3 – Your newsletter's 29th bday again

March 5 - Sokol Spirit Exhibition,
Riverside Brookfield High School

*See the website for information about Quiz
Nite and other events this Spring.*



Don't forget to check in at the gym: www.facebook.com/sokolspirit



Happy Holidays and a very healthy & happy New Year to everyone! See you in 2016!



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