



3909 S. Prairie Avenue
Brookfield, IL 60513-2143

June 2019

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

2018-2019 Sokol Spirit year-in-review

From our President,
Howie Maskill

This past year saw the final touches of the work to renovate and improve the lower hall and front entryway from last year's flood. This would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of many of our members. We also had great success in our fundraising efforts to offset some construction costs. I am happy to say we saw generous support from our members, their families and friends, as well as other organizations and clubs close to Sokol Spirit. Those generous donations, along with special fundraising events and grants, helped us raise a little over \$43,000! I am very grateful that includes a \$3,000 grant from the American Sokol through their annual Gateway to the Future grant opportunity. The final project to complete is the Donor Recognition Wall which will be displayed in the lower hall. Keep an eye out as we hope to have it completed soon! With a new and improved lower hall we intend to better utilize the space in an effort to increase our financial stability. We have already booked several new events in 2019.

Socials are a big part of our Sokol program and this year we introduced a few new social events. First was a Pig Roast/Chicago Bears viewing party. The event was a success and we plan to host a second one in the Fall. We also held a chili cook-off at the May World Beer Club. It was as well attended as it was delicious. I believe there are plans for another cook-off in the future. Friday Czech Films were moved from the first to third Friday of the month, aligning with Beer Club nights. When the men are playing Volleyball you can experience all of our four core programs (physical, social, cultural & educational) in one night!

Our gym program, led by our Board of Instructors, is the backbone of our Unit. A big challenge we faced this past year was operating without a physical director. Thankfully our instructors did a great job dividing the tasks and sharing responsibilities. We continuously thrive for a successful fitness program. There's been a large focus over the last few years on growing our class sizes, with an emphasis on the younger feeder programs to establish strong classes for years to come. We are excited to see enrollment growth in Tots and Girls classes and hope that trend continues. In addition to our traditional Sokol classes we continue to offer other options to our community. Spin Bike still meets twice per week. The Wheels class size has more than doubled in the last year. In January we tried something new and introduced a Ballet dance class. This year we also invested in our fitness program through the purchase of new equipment. Our gymnasts have a new spring floor for tumbling and new springboard for vaulting. We now own all of our wheels, and no longer have to rely on rented apparatus.

This summer we will have a large contingent at Sokol USA's Sokolfest in Buffalo, NY. Sokol Spirit will also play host to the American Sokol Instructor's School in July. This will be the third time in ten years the school is held at our gym.

I have several goals for the coming year. One is to update and revamp our current website. Be on the look-out for changes over the summer! Also, as always we must increase youth class sizes, grow our adult membership, and make efforts to truly engage new parents and members. Overall, the state of our Sokol Unit is strong! Thanks to all who give their time, energy and expertise. And thank you for allowing me to serve as your President.

Nazdar, Brother Howie Maskill

**“Spirit of the Seasons”: Sokol Spirit 15th Annual Exhibition–
Riverside Brookfield H.S.- March 23**



Sokol Spirit's 2019 Exhibition was one to remember. The theme was “Spirit of the Seasons”, and the theme carried through the music and inspired special numbers. Everyone enjoyed the show: The cal's, the Special Numbers, the Wheels, the gymnastics. Lots of smiles, hugs and laughs as the Exhibition came to a close. The After-Party was held at the newly-renovated Sokol Spirit lower hall and gym. It felt like we were ‘back home’.

A lot of work goes into making each Exhibition special. Thank you to everyone – near and far – who celebrated the day. That included spectators and those who sent ads for the program book, to the parents who get our gymnasts to classes. Everyone contributed to make it a special event. Those in leadership of our unit do more than any of us can imagine. Thank you to all participants, Spirit leadership and members for their countless hours and contributions to make it such a great event.

At the Exhibition, Sis. Ellie Babka was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her outstanding life-long service, dedication and mentorship to the Sokol Organization. Her daughters, Sis. Kathy Babka Carr and Sis. Janet Schreier, submitted this statement. We were unable to present it in its entirety at Exhibition but wanted to share it with you here (on the next page). Ellie, you are well-deserving of this award. Congratulations!

Sister Ellie Babka - Ellie began attending Sokol Slavsky in 1939 at the age of 5 years old before the Sokol organization had a tots class. At that time, before sound systems, live piano music was needed to practice calisthenics. Her older sister, Lydia, played the old piano during classes and almost never was able to drill the cal herself while she filled that need. Ed Halik was their teacher during those years; Ed ran a tight ship and was quite the drill sergeant!

Ellie took a break from attending Sokol in her teen years primarily because there were many more social activities for young people offered through Bohemian School. The Bohemian school met at the Sokol Berwyn building and the group of young people would take trips all over the Chicago area; attending various events including hockey games! Remembering those fun years may be why Ellie became a Junior Board advisor many years later in order to ensure that other teens had as much fun as she did.

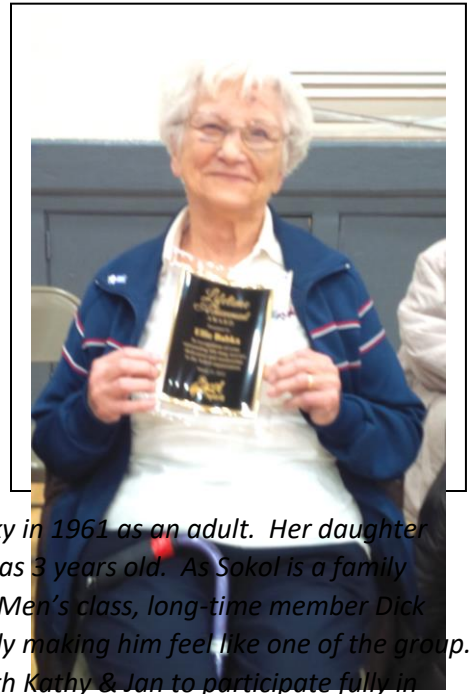
Ellie married Bernie in 1956, and had two beautiful girls. She rejoined Sokol Slavsky in 1961 as an adult. Her daughter Kathy was 4 years old and Jan joined the tots class the following year when she was 3 years old. As Sokol is a family affair, Bernie jumped into life at the gym as well. Welcoming him into the Senior Men's class, long-time member Dick Ptacek took Bernie under his wing, teaching him how to spot gymnastics and really making him feel like one of the group. Ellie, a self-professed "chicken little" when it came to gymnastics, encouraged both Kathy & Jan to participate fully in Sokol programming. In the early 1970's, a "Sunday Morning" class was begun to teach more advanced gymnastics to children of all ages. The Sunday Morning Class was highlighted in gymnastics programs, parades and exhibitions. At one time, between attending and teaching classes, the Babka family was at the gym 5-6 days a week!

Both Ellie and Bernie would go on to chaperone many Sokol Junior activities over the years. These events included overnight winter lodging with snow shoeing and skiing in Wisconsin, horse-back riding, trips to the Warren Dunes in Michigan, campfires and hide-and-seek activities in the area Forest Preserves after DARK! In addition to these social events, the Juniors' held many large fund-raising activities including annual newspaper drives (complete with kids perched atop open truck beds) and a glass recycling drive where Juniors broke glass and swept it into boxes to save space. The rented truck got at least one flat tire that day. To be clear – no Juniors were ever lost over these years! Ellie has held many different teaching roles at Sokol including every class with the exception of 2nd Class Boys, Junior Boys and Men. Along with her role as Junior Board Advisor, she was also Women's Director, Membership Director for many years, and was on the National Sokol Board. During challenging times in the organization, Ellie and Bernie were instrumental in keeping Sokol Slavsky alive by merging with other gyms. Sokol Berwyn was the first, and then eventually Sokol Brookfield to what form what is now a strong Sokol Spirit organization.

Ellie's passion has always been beautifully drilled mass calisthenics. Often, she translated calisthenics from the original Czech, hand illustrated moves with stick figures and was asked on several occasions to travel to other gyms across the country to teach the cal live. None of these cal was more stirring than that performed to Dvorak's 9th Symphony. The slow rise to the opening music will always be remembered by anyone who had the good fortune to perform that particular cal.

Ellie's friendship and time spent with long-time Sokol Sister, Dagmar Fiala, is a fondly remembered time in which movement, music, coordinated beauty and vision were shared by both women. During these years, there were many beautiful, well executed numbers done with Indian clubs, scarves, and full skirts that were performed both locally and nationally. Ellie's vision and leadership were tapped on more than one occasion to be the field leader at a number of regional and national slets.

In the late 90's, Ellie was asked by dearly-remembered Sokol member Ann Halik, to take over Ann's co-ed Sr. Class. This class was Ann's pride and joy and Ellie was honored to be trusted with this legacy. For many years with Ellie's leadership, the Sr. Co-ed class has been a place that has embodied the fullness of the Sokol ideal; exercise, camaraderie, support, respect, caring, social interaction and brotherly/sisterly love for folks to continue or enter the Sokol system well into their post-gymnastic years. For this contribution and for so many others, we thank Ellie for her many, many years of service and dedication to continuing the Sokol legacy so that others can enjoy our program today.



Special Number Competition – Lyons Township H.S. North – April 27

Spirit's Girls' class and Juniors competed in the Special Number Competition again this year. There were many great numbers. Among them were the Girls' class number "Singing in the Rain", the Juniors' "Sokol Lovin' ", and the wheels performed an exhibition number. Our Spirit Juniors came home with a first-place award for their number, co-written by Sis. Lauren Wilt and Sis. Lilly Smith. That night, Lilly was presented with the President's Award which includes a scholarship for college, so it was a great night for Spirit, and especially for Lilly. Thanks to the instructors for their work writing and teaching the numbers, and to the kids for doing their best!



GIJO meets: April 14 (Naperville Central H.S.) and May 5 (Aurora Turners)



Congrats to our Spirit girls at their recent GIJO meets. At the meet in April, the Gold team won 2nd place. At the May 5th meet, the Bronze team who won 1st place at this meet! Six girls from Spirit competed. Pictured above is our Spirit team and two girls from Sokol Naperville Tyrs. Great job, girls. We are proud of you!

Boys' /Men's and Girls' /Women's Artistic Competitions – May 11 and 18

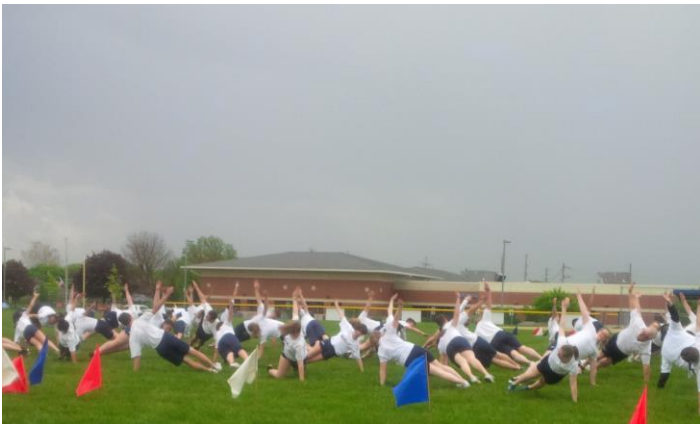


Also, on May 18, there was a wheel competition at Willie White Gym in Chicago. Spirit's Jenna Noga took 2nd place in the youth division. Congrats, Jenna!!

Sokol Day – Veterans Park, Lyons, Illinois – May 19

“Forward let us go together, in sunshine or stormy weather”. Sokol Day 2019 was one to remember. The walk-on started at 1:00pm. The storm seemed to move in at 1:05 pm. The flag bearers had quite a task holding their flags in the wind. Look at the flags in the stands. We are Sokols, so the wind and sideways rain didn’t stop us! The storm came through quickly. At one point, everyone needed to clear the field and huddled under the shelter. When the storm passed, gymnasts lined up and the show continued. I have to admit that although everyone got soaked, I did see many smiles and laughs, especially by children as they did their routines in the rain. And mud! The audience clapped louder at moments in which the gymnasts needed to do their moves in the mud. It was a memorable Sokol Day. Thank you to

those who took the field for the cals – you looked great! Usually I crop photos for the newsletter, but I left them somewhat uncropped so you could see the clouds and weather that tried to threaten, but did not succeed in ruining, our Sokol Day 2019.

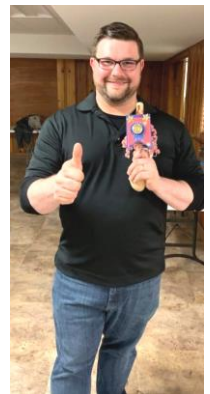


Sokol Day (cont.): The weather didn't really clear up most of the day so, after the cal's, the fun continued inside for the awards ceremony. Sokol Spirit kids were well represented on the winners' podium. Gymnasts salute!



Sokol Spirit First ever Chili-Cook Off – May 17

On Friday May 17, in conjunction with the May World Beer Club event, members and their families were invited to bring their best chili down for culinary competition! We were off to a great start with a total of 13 entries! The chili options ranged in spice level, protein (we had beef, pork, chicken, and even venison), we had beanless and verde, chili mac and of course classic. All in attendance were offered samples of each chili and submitted ballots at the end of the evening. Our winner by a close margin was Adam Wilt (pictured at right)! He won the coveted chili spoon of greatness. A fun time was had by all, and we all left with full stomachs for sure! Thanks to all that participated, and thanks to Cassie Croft for her efforts to make the event a success!



Spirit around town. . .

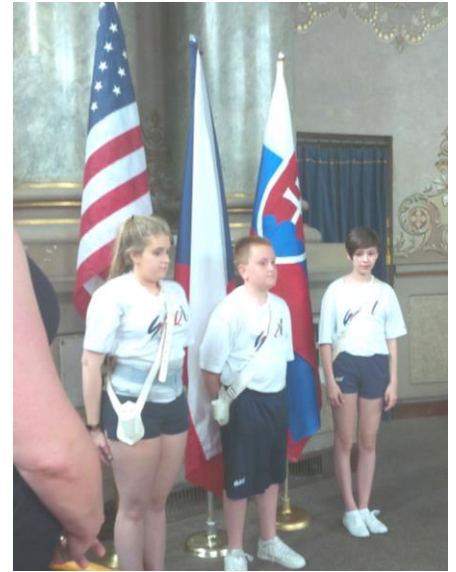


Left: Sokol Spirit members volunteered at the Brookfield Chamber of Commerce's Annual Street Dance on May 18th. Right: Spirit was well represented once again as we marched in the LaGrange Pet Parade on June 1st.

Memorial Day ceremony – Bohemian National Cemetery – May 27



Sokol Spirit was represented at the annual Memorial Day ceremony at Bohemian National Cemetery in Chicago. The Spirit Junior class proudly served as the color guard, and Sis. Angie Bultas offered opening statements. It was a beautiful morning. Please join us next year.



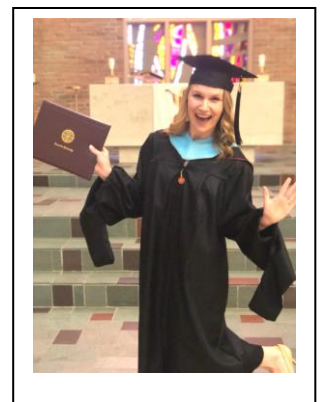
Have you heard...?

Tell us about Sokol Spirit member news:
SPIRITNEWS@HOTMAIL.COM ~ 708.370.7335

Our condolences to the family of Sis. Virginia Nicklas who passed away recently at the age of 95. She was a former Sokol Berwyn member who lived in Berwyn until she moved out of state. She is survived by her son, Bro. Bob Nicklas. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time of loss.

Sis. Alix Wilt (photo on right) graduated with her Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction with an ESL endorsement from Concordia University Chicago. Con-GRAD-ulations, Alix!

Please continue to send member news to Sis. Ellie Babka (babka@att.net) or 708-442-8810 – especially you long-timers we don't hear from very often. Love to keep in touch. Na Zdar!



Falcon Key Club

We would like to thank the following Falcon Key Club Members for their continued love and support for Sokol Spirit!! Please see the updated roster as generous donations were still coming in when our Ad book went to print for our Exhibition.

2019 Falcon Key Club Roster



Margaret Amlie	Mary Kitzberger	Mary Ann Satek
Bernie Babka	Bill Komarek	Patricia Satek
Ellie Babka	Heidi Kotynek	Chas Schultz
Joanne Bazata	Lisa Kotynek	Gloria Schultz
Dorothy Becker	Michael Kotynek	Helen Sevcu
Bednar & Marek Families	Marvin Lanzel	Slavia Sula
Jennifer Braun	Alex Maskill	Frank Svestka
Angeline Bultas	Regina McGuire	Ruth Svestka
Marie Bultas	Marilyn Michyeta	Laddie Vanek
Helen Caldwell	Nancy Pajeau	Adam Wilt
Charles Dvorak	Elmer Pavlas	Lauren Wilt
Ellen Duvall	Emily Polacek	Vera Wilt
Blanche Flosman	Janice Polz	Blanche Wostratzky
Lynne Goodridge	Jacki Ptacek - Rada	Jeanette Zahrobsky
Edwin Halik	Marie Ptacek	Elaine Zitko
Michelle Humowiecki	Richard Ptacek	
	Marianne Ronquillo	

The above members of the Sokol Spirit Falcon Key Club have a special vested interest in our programs and building maintenance and have gone above and beyond with extra financial effort to ensure we continue our services to our membership and community. It's never too late to join the nest as a Falcon Key Club Member, please consider donating to our 2019-2020 efforts in the coming year!! **With deep appreciation and a hearty NAZDAR!**

Men's Softball

This year's men's softball tournament is on and nearly half way over! Our Spirit men are playing on two teams and play on Mondays and Wednesdays. All games last about an hour and are at Janura Park in Berwyn (28th and East). I understand from a few of them that they need a lot of encouragement ;), so enjoy some evenings out and cheer them on.

Date	<u>White team</u>		<u>Blue team</u>	
	time	field	time	field
Monday, June 17	7:45	A	8:45	C
Wednesday, June 19			6:45	B
Monday, June 24	7:45	C		
	8:45	B		
Wednesday, June 26	8:45	C	7:45	C
Monday, July 8	7:45	B	8:45	B
Wednesday, July 10			6:45	B
Monday, July 15			7:45	B
			8:45	A
Wednesday, July 17	7:45	B		
Wednesday, July 24	8:45	A		

World Beer Club – Third Friday of each month - 8:00 p.m.

Summer 2019 dates: June 21 and August 16 (No July WBC)



Mark your calendar now and 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 or with a unique theme. Beers will be rated by all tasters. Receive a punch card to earn a free month. Light snacks or food item tasters will be provided, or bring some to share.

Be part of the "Club": WBC glasses available: \$5.

June's theme: Best of the Past 6 months!! (It's a fan favorite!)

REMEMBER: NO JULY WBC!! info@sokolspirit.org.



Brookfield Farmer's Market – Village Hall Parking Lot – Saturdays 8am -1pm



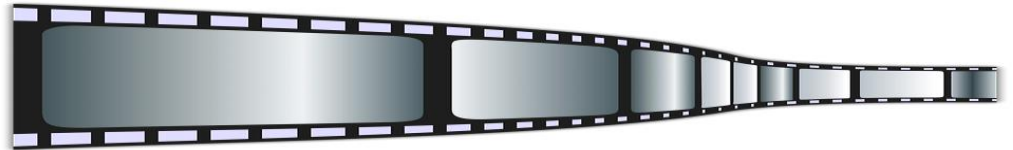
Come help promote Sokol Spirit to the community this summer at the weekly Farmer's Market. We could always use members to help us at this event. As a volunteer, you would set up our booth and speak with the community about Sokol Spirit and all we offer!

2019 Farmer's Market dates: July 13, 27 August 10, 17, 24, 31 September 7, 14

This event is located at 8820 Brookfield Ave in Brookfield in the parking lot.

Feel free to email me with questions or if you'd like to volunteer: bombage2@aol.com - Cassie Croft

News from the Education Director, Sis. Vera Wilt



The Friday Film Series will resume in the Fall on the 3rd Friday of the month, so mark your calendars now for September 20, October 18, and November 15. The Czech films start at 7pm in our Czech classroom upstairs and with donation of \$5 you get a free pilsner, pop, or water. Then be sure to attend World Beer Club in the lower hall following each movie.

Czech language classes start again in September. More information will be in the August newsletter. Information is available on the Spirit website (www.SokolSpirit.org).

~ MEMORIAL FUND ~

In memory of Lisa Kotynek from the Bultas and Makdah families. \$100.00

Please send any Memorial Fund and Newsletter Fund donations to the address in the footer on the front page.



Choose "Smile": As you do your online shopping, you may be asking: How can I easily support Sokol Spirit? We've got the answer for you: *Amazon Smile*. Go to smile.amazon.com, choose "Sokol Spirit" as your charity, and then shop as you normally would. Sokol Spirit gets a portion of the sale. Remember to use *Amazon Smile*, and tell your family and friends about it, too.

Sokol Classes Begin Week of Sept. 9-13, 2019
Class Details Online - Register Online NOW: www.sokolspirit.org!
2019-2020 Sokol Fitness Class Schedule

Tots (Preschool & Kindergarten) - Monday 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Girls (Grades 1-6) - Monday 6:30-8 p.m.

Boys (Grades 1-6) - Tuesday 6-7:30 p.m.

Girls GJO Gymnastics Class (Grades 1-6) - Thursday 6:30-8 p.m.

Junior Girls (Grades 7-12) - Monday & Thursday 8-9 p.m.

Junior Boys (Grades 7-12) - Tuesday 7:30-8:30 p.m. & Thursday 8-9 p.m.

Women (Ages 18+) - Monday & Thursday 9-10 p.m.

Men (Ages 18+) - Tuesday & Friday 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Senior Co-Ed (Ages 55+) - Tuesday 9:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Wheel Gymnastics (Ages 6+) - Wednesday 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Spin (Ages 16+) - Monday 7:00-8:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00-9:00 a.m.



Saturday, September 14

3:00 - 10:00 p.m. in the Spirit Parking Lot

***Potato Pancakes, Brats, Beer, Live Music,
Games and a Bounce House!***

Free Admission!

*Have a fun, safe and
healthy summer!*





Calendar of Events

Summer 2019:

June 21: Friday Film - *Black Peter* 7pm

June 21: World Beer Club 8pm

Theme: Best Beers from the past 6 months

June 26-30: 2019 Sokol USA Sokolfest –
Buffalo, NY

(Safe travels to our Sokol Brothers and Sisters!
Bring back great stories, photos and memories!)

July 4: Brookfield 4th of July Parade

(March with us! Check website and email for
more info.)

July 13 & 27, Aug 10, 17, 24 & 31, Sept 7 & 14:

Brookfield Farmers Market 8am - 1pm

NO World Beer Club in July!

Monthly meetings resume in September!

First Wednesday

Sokol Spirit Unit Meeting 7:30 pm

Third Monday

Sokol Spirit BOI Meeting 7:30 pm

Save the dates:

September 4: Unit meeting (info above)

September 7 & 14:

Brookfield Farmers Market 8am - 1pm

Week of September 9: Classes start!

September 14: Spirit's Oktoberfest 3-10pm

Sept 20: Friday Film - *Autumn Spring* 7pm

September 20: World Beer Club 8 pm

October 20: 2nd Annual Pig Roast

November 2: Spaghetti Dinner

November 9: Vendor Fair

*See the website for more information about
these and other events!*



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



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