



3909 S. Prairie Avenue  
Brookfield, IL 60513-2143

**October 2025**

Moving? Please let us know your new address!  
Contact: Dorothy Becker  
340 Lake Shore Drive North  
Barrington, IL 60010-3425 [BeckerD9749@SBCglobal.net](mailto:BeckerD9749@SBCglobal.net)

Check out our website: [www.sokolspirit.org](http://www.sokolspirit.org)

**From our President,**

**Sis. Kathy Barcal**

Our 2025-2026 Sokol year is off to a strong beginning! I would like to thank everyone for supporting Sokol Spirit! We look forward to a very fun, busy and exciting year ahead!

Registration is still open for all classes!

We began our Sokol year with our annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 13th! We were lucky to have great weather for the event that day. Thank you to the Oktoberfest committee for all of your time and hard work to make this event a huge success! Thank you to the many volunteers who assisted throughout the day. Thank you to all of you who came out to support Sokol Spirit!

Our classes will be having Halloween parties the week of October 27th. We are asking for donations of candy for the goodie bags for the youth. We are in the process of getting ready for the trim a tree event at the Brookfield Zoo. All youth classes will be creating ornaments for the tree. The tree decorating will be on Sunday, November 9th. Further information to follow. Everyone is invited to come and decorate the tree! Thank you to our Board of Instructors for all of your time and hard work for our Sokol classes.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual spaghetti dinner on Saturday, November 8th from 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 for adults or 2 dinners for \$25 (new this year) and \$8 for children 12 and under. Bring your family and friends for a delicious spaghetti dinner!

Start your holiday shopping early at our Vendor and Craft Fair on Saturday, November 15th from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. We will be selling food and refreshments. We hope to see you there! We will also be having our annual wreath sale. You can order online directly from our website. We will have some flyers at the gym as well. There are many beautiful wreaths and arrangements to choose from to decorate your home. Orders are due by November 12th and the pick up will be on Saturday November 22nd. Further details to follow.

Just a reminder that we have our unit meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. We have a social at 7 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. All members are invited to attend. On the third Friday of each month we have our Czech Movie Series which begins at 7 p.m. and our Beer Club which begins at 8 p.m. Check out our website for further details and dates.

Thank you all for supporting Sokol Spirit! During this holiday season, let's remember to be grateful for all that we have.

Nazdar!

Recreating a photo of the '76-'77 Sokol Brookfield relay team at a district Slet held at RBHS.



L to R - Paul Vanek (taking Dave Harlan's place), Kevin Thompson, John Bazata and Bob Orsula. The photo was taken in August at a Sokol Brookfield reunion. Thanks to Jim Hantak for getting the team back together. Rumor has it they will be attempting a comeback at the 2029 American Sokol Slet.

Happy Birthday to Spirit members with October & November birthdays!

John Becker  
Edwin Halik, Jr.  
James Hedderman  
Dave Kakareka  
Tom Pajer  
Ryan Wasielewski  
Adam Wilt  
Christopher Zitny  
Mara Karel  
Dianna Babiar  
Alic Cozad  
Veronica Hiltsher  
Beth Kell  
Chris Kogut

Patricia Leja  
Jessica McLennon  
Mary Novak  
Michelle O'Connell  
Joanne Raygoza  
Jessica Rus  
Janet Schreier  
Gloria Schultz  
Dan Parcel  
Charles Ptacek  
Dean Shrofe  
Mark Shrofe  
Frank Tudisco  
Angelica Anaya

Karen Boylan  
Vera Cerny  
Lori McCarthy  
Kyle Cruz  
Theresa Deibert  
Ellen Duvall  
Lynette Gilbert  
Dolores Guzman  
Heidi Hankey  
Sarah Heth  
Marilyn Lutha  
Clare Mensik  
Marilyn Michyeta  
Bruce Rhoades

Debbie Shields  
Laura Wood  
Jeannette Zahrobsky  
Deborah Zitny  
Elexa Alvarez



**Our 15th Annual Oktoberfest was one for the books!** Here are some highlights...



Reminder: The newsletter can be found in color at [sokolspirit.org](http://sokolspirit.org) on the Membership page

**More Oktoberfest fun!!!**



## Brookfield Farmer's Market Summer 2025



We hosted a Sokol Spirit booth for another year at the Brookfield Farmer's Market. Again, this market was voted #1 in Illinois (three years running now). There are typically over 60 vendors at each market!

I want to say thank you to those Spirit members who took time out of their weekends to represent our unit at the market. This event is a tangible investment in the sustainability of our Sokol unit in this community.

Sending a major shoutout and THANK YOU to those members and instructors that helped this summer: John Bazata, Dave Kakareka, Vera Wilt, Suzy Mazgay, Wendy Sanders, Tricia Rini, Jenny Wasielewski, Lauren Wilt, Meribeth Tooke, Kathy Barcal and Alix Fron.

*-Cassie Croft*

### World Beer Club – October 17, November 21, December 19



We are continuing our beloved Friday beer clubs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, but it's time to shake things up. We are still looking for members and friends to volunteer as 'beertenders' again this year. We will have different options for the events this year, including our traditional beer club with tasting flights and other Friday night Sokol socials welcoming all members and friends with a BYO and cash bar option. We will have some theme nights throughout the year, including our holiday parties and introducing a wine tasting month in the spring. Exciting things are happening with our beer club, and we want everyone to be a part of it! Below is this Fall's schedule:

- October 17: Traditional Beer Club, 6-beer flight, Live music
- November 21: Traditional Beer Club, 6-beer flight
- December 19: Spirit Holiday party, guests BYO, volunteer bartenders for cash bar

Please be on the lookout for updates & further details on the Sokol Spirit website and on Facebook. If you love beer club, volunteer to host your own! The volunteer form is on the Sokol Spirit website. Email Cassie with any questions: [cassandraLCroft@gmail.com](mailto:cassandraLCroft@gmail.com)

**In the Spirit of giving, please send Memorial, Newsletter and ADA Fund donations to the address in the footer on the front page. We also accept donations through our website. Sokol Spirit is a 501(c)3 non-for-profit organization. Your donation is fully tax deductible. All donations to these funds go towards gym equipment, printing cost for this newsletter, and future projects to make our building more accessible.**

### From our Education Director:

Each year, on October 8, we recognize Sokol Memorial Day, in solidarity with the Czech Sokol Organization. It honors the hundreds of Sokol members who were persecuted, imprisoned, and even killed by the Nazis in 1941 during World War II. On that date, the Gestapo made arrests of Sokols all across then Czechoslovakia because they considered Sokol a dangerous resistance group. Although the country had been occupied since 1939, in 1941 Reinhard Heydrich, the new governor of the "Protectorate of Bohemian and Moravia" was ruling with an iron fist, and he saw to the dissolution of the Sokol organization. Approximately 1,500 Sokols were arrested, ninety percent of those arrested that first night perished.

Today we know our organization as a social and fitness organization, but Sokols have been instrumental in the formation of a Czechoslovak nation in 1913, were early trainers of the Czechoslovak military, and have been a strong patriotic organization throughout history.

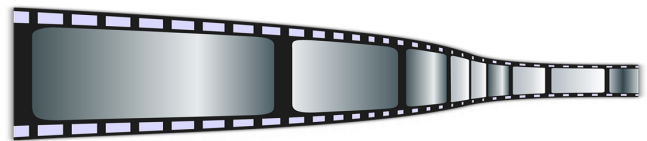
The Czech motto is "Truth Shall Prevail" and that is why our worldwide organization rose again and survives today.

Coming soon, we hope to introduce some informal educational gatherings on fun topics, including mushrooming, baking, holiday traditions and much more. Look for more information in newsletters and on our website.

Nazdar!

Vera Wilt

## CZECH FILM SERIES



(English Subtitles) on **the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month** to coincide with the Sokol Spirit World Beer Club which starts at 8pm! The Czech films start at 7pm in our Czech classroom upstairs and with donation of \$5 you get a free pilsner, pop, or water. Our Czech language instructor will be introducing you to all the film background and will be there to answer questions. This is our 11<sup>th</sup> season!

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!**

**October 17 THE GIRL ON THE BROOMSTICK/ *Dívka na koštěti*** ; 1972; 80 Minutes; Color; English subtitles; Rating G. Saxana is a young [witch](#) who is just learning her craft at a witch school. When one day he stays after school for 300 years, he uses the Lexicon of Spells to transport herself to the human world for 44 hours, where she wreaks havoc with his variously successful [spells](#). Gradually, she falls in love with Honza, which is why she does not want to return to the fairytale realm. Only drinking the decoction from the grandmother's ear, which she diligently searches for, can save her from returning. He doesn't know that the lady's ear actually means [sagebrush](#) , and is looking for an actual human lady's ear. Slavic School of Magic, is a school founded by the pure-blood Ivan Vorobyov in 1567. From the American Sokol Lending Library.

**November 21 (JOHN AMOS) COMENIUS-Life and Legacy / (*Jan Amos*) KOMENSKÝ**; 2021; 96 Minutes; Color; English & English Subtitles; Rating: PG. The story starts as the Dutch artist, Rembrandt paints his picture. John was a bishop of the Brethren Church, scholar, linguist, and reformer of education. He became an orphan as a young boy and then lived with his uncle and aunt in Straznice until they were killed when the Boesky soldiers invaded the town. He married three times and had six children but rarely spent time with them because he was devoted to his teaching and books. He didn't agree with the way the teachers used physical punishment and introduced the idea that a picture could help when reading a story. He wrote over 200 treatises and books. From the American Sokol Lending Library.

**We will take a break from films in December/January and return on February 20th**

*Sokol Spirit's Education Committee reserves the right to change movies due to circumstances beyond their control.*

## Spaghetti Dinner!

Saturday, November 8th

4:30-7:30pm

\$15 per adult or 2 for \$25

\$8 per child (12 yrs and younger)

Join us for a delicious, heartwarming evening at our annual Spaghetti Dinner!

Gather your friends and family and come enjoy a classic meal.

All you can eat!

We'll be serving up plates of piping hot spaghetti with homemade meat sauce, garden salad, bread, and a selection of decadent desserts.

It's comfort food at its best, and you won't even have to do the dishes!



## CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

**Saturday, November 15th**  
**9am – 3pm**

Start your Holiday Shopping Now!

Crafters / Vendors / Food

3909 S. Prairie Ave., Brookfield



**EMAIL OR CALL TO RESERVE YOUR TABLE!**

**\$50/table plus a raffle prize donation\***

**RESERVATIONS - call or email:**

**Sokol Spirit: 708-485-9663**

**Email: [info@SokolSpirit.org](mailto:info@SokolSpirit.org)**

**Attn: Kathy | Mary**

**\*Payment received by  
November 1st  
reserves your table.**





# Have you heard...?

Tell us about Sokol Spirit member news:  
SPIRITNEWS@HOTMAIL.COM ~ 708.692.8350

Welcome to little Casey Powers, born May 26, making Sis. Kathy Babka Carr a thrilled grandma. Born just an ounce over 6 lbs., he's now growing like a weed and smiling for pictures sent to auntie Sis. Jan Babka Schreier and great grandma Sis. Ellie Babka. Needless to say, entire family is thrilled, which of course includes his mom & dad, Caitlin & Dan Powers of Baltimore, Maryland.

Nazdar, Casey!



Congratulations to Sis. Scarlet Pajer! This year, Scarlet started at Ball State University to continue her academic and athletic career. As a member of the women's gymnastics team, her dream of being a D1 athlete has finally come true. It's no Falcon, but close enough...

Go Cardinals!!!

Congratulations to Sis. Lauren Wilt. Last December, she graduated from UIC Law School and recently passed the Illinois Bar Exam. Kudos to Lauren for accomplishing this while working full-time, becoming a Mom, leading Sokol Spirit's physical programs, and being the First Lady of American Sokol!



# Sokol Spirit's annual **WREATH SALE**

Support Sokol Spirit's traditional fall/winter fundraiser! Order some fresh wreaths to decorate your home for the holidays provided by Hiawatha Wreath Company.

Complete your order forms by November 12.

ORDER online at [www.sokolspirit.org](http://www.sokolspirit.org)



**Wreath pick-up will be at Sokol Spirit**  
**SATURDAY November 22**

**12:00pm-1:00pm**



Not feeling the online ordering?  
Grab an order form at Sokol Spirit and drop it in the  
Wreath Sale box on the stage in the gymnasium.  
Make checks payable to: Sokol Spirit

Questions-reach out to your Sokol class instructor or  
email me at [bombage2@aol.com](mailto:bombage2@aol.com)

--Cassie Croft (wreath sale coordinator)



*10"-12" Birch Snowman*



*Single Face Fir Outdoor  
Wreath 24", 30", 40", 60", 72"  
Double Face 36"*



*Holiday Yule Log 12"*



NOW is the time to send your Holiday greetings to your Sokol family and friends for inclusion in the next Newsletter! Send Holiday greetings as an alternative to sending holiday cards to all of your Sokol friends, family and coaches – you can save a fortune and still give people that warm and fuzzy feeling. Or how about sending New Year's wishes? *Kids (of all ages) love to see their names in the newsletter*, so why not send a special note to them? Turn in this form and your donation of any amount:

- Drop it in the mailbox at the gym
- Mail to Howie Maskill, c/o Spirit News, 206 Holly Ave, Darien, IL 60561
- Or send your greeting via email to **Spiritnews@hotmail.com** and send your donation by mail or drop it off at the gym
- By **November 30**, and then watch for your greeting in the December newsletter! It's that easy!

Get in the Spirit of the Holidays with your greeting!

-----

TO (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

GREETING (please write clearly):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

FROM:

\_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit by November 30th. Thank you in advance for your donation to Sokol Spirit!

**From your Friendly Sokol Spirit Financial Secretary:**

Do you want to avoid a December dues letter and save some money around the holidays? Then why don't you pay your 2026 dues now?! Go to [sokolspirit.org](http://sokolspirit.org) and click on "Pay Dues" to pay by credit card. — Dorothy Becker

**BUMP, SET, SPIKE!**

Come out and cheer on our men's volleyball team this Fall at Sokol Spirit and Sokol Tabor over the 1st and 3rd Fridays .

| Date           | 8:00 PM           | 9:00 PM          |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 10/17 @ Spirit | Spirit v Tabor 1  | Tabor 2 v United |
| 11/7 @ Tabor   | Tabor 2 v Tabor 1 | Spirit v United  |
| 11/21 @ Spirit | Spirit v Tabor 2  | Tabor 1 v United |

**Playoffs**

|                |                 |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 12/5 @ Tabor   | 1st v 4th       | 2nd v 3rd       |
| 12/19 @ Spirit | 3rd place match | 1st place match |

As always, stick around to socialize after the games!



Greetings from our NEW newsletter Editor! I have decided to try my hand at the world of Sokol Spirit news reporting! So, if you notice some changes, that explains it. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any news to share or there's something you'd like to see in a future newsletter. Special thanks to Kathe Heetel for her many years of service!  
Nazdar—Howie

**Recurring meetings:**

First Wednesday

Sokol Spirit Unit Meeting 7:30 pm

All members are welcome!

**Upcoming:****October 17:** Czech Film 7pm & World Beer Club 8pm**November 2:** Central District Annual Meeting**November 8:** Spaghetti Dinner**November 9:** Brookfield Zoo Trim-A-Tree**November 15:** Holiday Vendor Fair**November 21:** Czech Film 7pm & World Beer Club 8pm**November 24-28:** No Classes**Save the dates:****December 19:** Winter Show (time TBD) & World Beer Club 8pm**Dec 20-Jan 11:** Winter Break; No Classes**January 16:** World Beer Club 8pm**January 25:** Pancake Breakfast & Flapjack Open**February 21:** Trivia NightDon't forget to check in at the gym: [www.facebook.com/sokolspirit](http://www.facebook.com/sokolspirit)3909 S. Prairie Avenue  
Brookfield, IL 60513-2143NON-PROFIT OR  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 134  
BROOKFIELD, IL