



3909 S. Prairie Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513

www.sokolspirit.org

October 2026

From the President's Podium
Sis. Kathy Barcal



Our 2026-2027 Sokol year started with our annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 12th! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and attended this event to support Sokol Spirit! We were fortunate to have great weather for the event! Registration is still open for all classes. You can register from our website at sokolspirit.org. We are looking forward to a very fun, busy and exciting year ahead!

Our classes will be having Halloween parties the week of October 26th. 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 Saturday, November 7th. 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 the following events. Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, November 7th from 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Bring your family and friends for a delicious spaghetti dinner! Start your holiday shopping early at our Vendor and Craft Fair on Saturday, November 14th. We will be accepting vendors and crafters until November 1st. We will also be having our annual wreath sale. You can order online directly from our website. Further details to follow about all of our events!

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.

Nazdar! Kathy Barcal, President

"Autumn, the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful!" ~ Heather Stillufsen



Have you heard...?

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



Welcome to the world Lorelei Louise Rini
Born on 9/2/26 at 7lbs 14oz
Congratulations to Tricia and Adam and big brother
Leo!

2026 Gateway To The Future Grant

The American Sokol Foundation Committee awards financial grants to support specific initiatives to units. This summer we replaced our boiler, pumping station and a valve. A Gateway to the Future grant was submitted to the Foundation Committee to receive financial assistance for the new boiler. Sokol Spirit received \$6,240 to be applied to our expenses for the removal of the old boiler and installation of the new boiler and equipment. The project was completed at the end of August 2026. We are ready to start our new Sokol year with a new boiler! Thank you to the American Sokol Foundation Committee for awarding this grant to Sokol Spirit!



We had a great time at our 16th Annual Oktoberfest!



Summer events – getting the word out about Sokol Spirit

We hosted a Sokol Spirit booth for another year at the Brookfield Farmer's Market. There are typically over 60 vendors at each market, so it's a busy event.

This year was the first time we've participated in the Block Party on Grand events (August & September). These events drew many families out and were able to check out some of our activities and offerings a Sokol Spirit.

I want to say thank you to those Spirit members who took time out of their Friday evening and weekends to represent our unit at these Brookfield Community events. Participating in these events is a major 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 to promote Sokol Spirit: John Bazata, Vera Wilt, Kaitlyn Barcal, Jennifer Baran Rutkowski, Lauren & Adam Wilt, Sarah Ullmann, Meribeth & John Tooke, Alex & Howie Maskill, Kathy Barcal and Alix Fron.

-Cassie Croft

From the Archives: It's mushroom hunting season...

Do you have your license yet?

MUSHROOM PICKERS LICENSE

This certificate is issued to _____ for the pleasure of picking Mushrooms in the Town of _____ in the county of _____ in the state of _____

Annual Fee \$10.00 Semi-Annual \$5.50 Monthly \$1.00 Weekly 50c Daily 10c
+ Man & Wife \$1.00 Picker & Relative \$2.00 · Picker & Non-Relative \$5.00 extra
This certificate limits the license to

☐ Grape Basket ☐ Shopping Bag (paper) ☐ 2 Shopping Bags ☐ Bushel Basket
☐ 2 Bushel Baskets No Bohemian matched luggage (leather or cloth shopping bags) allowed. — Issuing Agent hopes Licensee knows Mushroom.

Licensee agrees to the following conditions for hunting:

1. Has sharp knife. 2. Will use one hand only. 3. Will replace all turf (including cow dung).
4. Will not disturb leaves. 5. Raking stick not to exceed 31 inches.
6. No houbies under ¼ inch head size. 7. No gloves permitted. 8. Observe picking time — from sunrise to sunset. 9. No flashlights to be used. 10. Real Bohemian guides prohibited. (Punishable by confinement to 3 months in attic.)

CLOSED SEASON on all KINDS listed Below:

CHOROS SROSTLY	PYCHAVKA OBECHNA	LOSAK BILY
RYZEC	HRIB	LANYZ CERNY
SMRZ JEDLY	KYJANKA CERVENA	HOLUBINKA
MUCHOMORKA	UHELKA	KOZAK NEB SPICNIK
KLOUZEK KRAUSKY	LISKA JEDLA	

NO Closed Season or Bag Limit on AMANITA FAMILY (JEDOVATE HOUBY).

Compliments of
CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIETY OF AMERICA
PIONEER OF FRATERNAL LIFE INSURANCE
2138 South 61st Court Cicero, Illinois 60650
Tel. 242-2224 — 652-6360

Resident Mushroom License

issued in pursuance to and in reliance on statements made and filed under the provisions of Section 28.XX17 and 28.CC12, Illinois Statutes, having complied with the requirements of the statutes relative to qualifications.

NAME _____ SEX _____
AGE _____
HEIGHT _____
ADDRESS _____ HAIR _____
CITY _____ EYES _____
& STATE _____

Above person is hereby authorized by this license to take mushrooms as prescribed by the Illinois Statutes and Conservation Commission.

SIGNATURE OF LICENSEE (OVER) _____

1973-1974

RULES AND REGULATIONS

NOTE: Limit based by use of Dry Measure such as—4 pecks equal one bushel. (Use of Bohemian Bushel is illegal.)

PER DAY LIMIT AS FOLLOWS . . .

Agaricaceae—or Mushroom of Umbrella shape—Limit 2 Pecks. Puff Balls—1 Bushel. Coral Fungi—1 Peck. Common Meadow Mushroom—2 Pecks.

EQUIPMENT—Mushroom stick not to exceed 30 inches in length and 1 inch in diameter. (Use of rake, spade, shovel, scoop, combine or any mechanical harvester is illegal.)

NO LIMIT ON POISONOUS MUSHROOMS

Please help conserve our Mushroom crop so that others may also enjoy their many benefits.
Exceeding daily limit can result in confiscation of Mushrooms, fine and/or imprisonment or all three.

POSITIVELY NO GUIDES ALLOWED

FALCON—A SOKOL SYMBOL

The Sokol symbol is a Falcon. "Sokol" is the Czech word for Falcon.

The Falcon is a bird known for its courage, endurance, lightning speed, sharp eyesight and love of great heights of it's blue skies.

Thus it symbolizes the ideals of the organization: fitness, strength, heroism, freedom and high goals.



Holiday Greetings

Now is the time to send your Holiday greetings or New Year's wishes to your Sokol family and friends for inclusion in the December Newsletter! 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 make your donation at sokolspirit.org

Submit 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!



GREETING (please write clearly): _____

FROM: _____

Donation Amount: _____

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

WANTED: SECRET SANTA HELPERS to assist the Pillars Community (Nurse) Health Association, (pillarscommunityhealth.org) program in its 41st year with Rotary Club of LaGrange elves (lagrangerotary.com). This is the local health service for our township.



HOW: Contribute new gloves, scarves, earmuffs, etc., warm clothing for Ages 6 months to 18 years to the Sokol Spirit Giving Tree on the stage. Used, clean items can be contributed. The trees will be put up after Halloween.

Please put a “from tag” with your first name only. The final pick-up will be mid-December. All items will be collected and brought to the Secret Santa “Workshop”. Anything not utilized will be given to the free medical and dental clinics to use throughout the winter with youth clients.

SPONSORSHIP: Sokol Spirit members, students, and friends have been collecting for this program for 26 years and is one of the top 10 not-for-profit Illinois corporations which provide items.

WHY: To assist in supporting local parents who work hard to care for their families and children but may have no health insurance and visit the health clinic or use the health programs run by the association. This year more than 1,000 children have been identified. All those associated with the Secret Santa program feel that helping parents and children share moments of celebration that make for new memories is part of the answer. Please join Sokol Spirit to express our support for this local charity. THANK YOU in advance for your support and making the Holiday Season merrier!

SOKOL SPIRIT PRESENTS ITS 2026-27 EDUCATIONAL LINE-UP OF CZECH FILM CLASSES

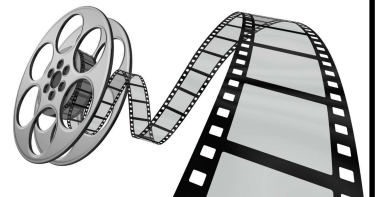
On the **3rd Friday of the Month**. The Czech films (English Subtitles) start at 7pm in our classroom upstairs and with donation of \$5 you get a free Pilsner, pop, or water. Our Czech language instructor will be introducing you to all the film background and will be there to answer questions. **This is our 16th season!**

November 20 THE LAST RACE / Poslední Závod; 2022; 102 Minutes;

Color; English subtitles; Rating: G. The drama The Last Race recounts the true story of 50 km cross-country ski race in 1913, in the Giant Mountain peaks (also known as *Krkonoše* or *Karkonosze*, are located in the north of the Czech Republic and the southwest of Poland; The main ridge of the mountains runs from east to west, forming the border between the two countries) and two pioneers of Czech skiing, Bohumil Hanc and Václav Vrbata participating. The story's third hero is the German athlete, Emerich Rath. (On loan from the American Sokol Library, Illinois)

Save these dates for our 2027 films

February 19 March 19 April 16 May 21





MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS

In Memory of Joanne Bazata

From William and Debra Adams
From John Bazata and family
From Sandra Martinez and family
From Timothy and Marie O'Toole

ADA FUND DONATIONS

In Memory of Joanne Bazata, Elmer Kulousek,
Frank Michalek, Charles Rocush,
Arline Von Schwedler, EllenJeanne Schnabl,
Mildred Schnabl and Candace Curran Short

From Ellie Babka

Thank you for your generosity!



SAVE THE DATE!

Scan the QR code for more info



Sokol Spirit's Annual



Support Sokol Spirit and decorate your home
with a fresh wreath & more for the holidays
handmade by Hiawatha Wreath Company

ORDERS DUE BY FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13



Wreath Pick up will be at
Sokol Spirit on Saturday
November 21, 12:00pm-1:00pm

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.SOKOLSPIRIT.ORG

Questions? Email Cassie:
bombage2@aol.com

ORDER FORMS ALSO
AVAILABLE AT SOKOL
SPIRIT

CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
SOKOL SPIRIT



SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday
November 7th

4:30 - 7:30pm

**ALL YOU CAN EAT PASTA,
BREAD, AND SALAD**

\$15 PER ADULT OR 2 FOR \$25

\$8 PER CHILD
(12 YRS AND YOUNGER)

Good food. Great cause.

Sokol Spirit
3909 Prairie Ave.
Brookfield, IL



Geocaching at Spirit

Geocaching started in Oregon in the year 2000 and can be described as the world's largest treasure hunt with over 3 million caches worldwide with thousands of people participating. Geocaches are mostly physical containers hidden in places not obvious to the public and can be found by GPS coordinates. Containers can range in the size of large plastic reusables to micro-sized canisters no bigger than one's thumbnail. All traditional caches have a log sheet where the finder would sign their geocache name (more on that later). Larger cache containers could hold swag which can be little trinkets, plastic animals, stickers, coins, etc. Proper etiquette states that if you take some swag you replace it with an item of equal or greater value.

There are many different types of geocaches, some make you use your brain or travel to another place to get a smiley face. When you log a find on the website you get a yellow smiley face, if you couldn't find it and log a DNF (Did not find) you get a blue frown face. This is important info because there might be an issue with the cache and the owner will have to address the situation.

My wife and I started geocaching in early 2024 and have 552 finds and 2 hides but there are cachers who have many more finds and have been doing it much longer, some with finds well into the thousands or ten-thousands. Our cache name is *Ha Found Ya*. Our first hide is located in the parking lot at our building and is named "Spirit of the Cache" (Pun intended). It is a plastic test tube with magnets attached so obviously hidden on something metal.

When Paul Lebloch's personal items were available at a Spirit event I took many small items like buttons, key chains, pins, etc. which so far I've added to large geocache containers around our area plus Western and Central Illinois. At future trips to Iowa, Indiana and Ohio I'll include more of Brother Lebloch's items when possible. I think it's a great way to spread his legacy.

If anyone is interested go to geocaching.com where you can to register, become a member and supply a geocache name. There is also an app which is a must if you get serious about geocaching.



If anyone wants more info Howie has my email address and can forward any questions which I'll be happy to reply.

Nazdar and cache on!

Bro. Jim Hantak

BUMP, SET, SPIKE!

Come out and cheer on our men's volleyball team this Fall at Sokol Spirit and Sokol Tabor on Friday nights. The season is already underway, and here are the remaining games:

Nov. 6 – 8:30pm @ Tabor

Semi-finals Dec 4 - 8:30pm @ Tabor

Nov. 13 – 9pm @ Spirit

Finals Dec 11 - 8pm @ Tabor

Nov. 20 – 9pm @ Spirit

Stick around to socialize after the games!





Cordially invites you to participate in our

 Holiday
CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR

Saturday, November 14th, 9a.m. – 3p.m.

Location: Sokol Spirit, 3909 S. Prairie Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513



Cost/Table: \$50 – plus a raffle prize donation
Includes one table and two chairs

Questions: 708-485-9663 Please leave a message or

Email: info@sokolspirit.org **Attn:** Kathy / Mary

Food/Beverages: Available for purchase



To participate, please complete and return the form with payment by check, cash, or online at www.sokolspirit.org. Click on the Vendor Event to sign up and pay.

Deadline to register - November 2nd.

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Company Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Items You Will Be Selling: _____

Will You Need Power for Your Set Up? Yes No **Returning Vendor:** Yes No

How Did You Hear About Our Event: _____

Number of Tables: _____

Amount Submitted: _____



Calendar of Events

Recurring meeting— First Wednesday of the month
Unit Meeting 7:30 pm—*All members are welcome*

Upcoming:

October 30: Bohemian Bake & Share Night

November 7: Brookfield Zoo Trim-a-tree

November 7: Spaghetti Dinner

November 14: Vendor Fair

November 20: Czech Film 7pm; Beer Club 8pm

Save the dates:

December 18: Winter Show

December 18: Beer Club

February 20: Trivia Night

February 28: Pancake Breakfast



Follow us on social media



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



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