

american **SOKOL**



Volume CXIX, Number VIII

OCTOBER 1997

This Is My Sokol

*It is composed of people like me.
We make it what it is. It will be friendly,
if I am. This hall will be filled, if I help fill it.
It will do great work, if I work.*

*It will bring other people into its gymnasium, if I bring them. It
will be a Sokol of loyalty and love, lifelong friendships and a Sokol
with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these.*

*Therefore, I shall dedicate myself to the tasks of being all things
that I want Sokol to be. My personal goal is to offer to help
more often and get the jobs done which must be done.*

*From American Sokol Little Ferry Newsletter,
by
Sis. Nancy Chlodnicki*



American Sokol

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THOUGHT STARTERS

from Bro. Jerry Milan,
ASO Educational Director

"If you can find a
path with no obstacles,
it probably doesn't
lead anywhere."

From Your Editor...

Sis. Chlodnicki's wise words on the front cover are applicable to us all. You have been urged by myself and certainly by countless others in your own units and districts to become more involved. We are all responsible for the future of Sokol. If we each do our own small part, the bigger task will more easily be accomplished.

NA ZDAR!

Sis. Patricia Satek
46 Northgate Road
Riverside, IL 60546-1639

CALENDAR of EVENTS

NOVEMBER

2 Central District Annual Meeting
8 American Sokol Little Ferry
Pirogi Sale
15 Sokol Tabor Spaghetti Dinner
16 Sokol Minnesota Pancake
Breakfast & Bake Sale
21-23 Holiday Folk Fair - Milwaukee
30 Czech Voice of Cleveland
30th Anniversary Dinner
Dance at Karlin

DECEMBER

6 Central District Rhythmic
Competition
6 Central District Men's/Boys'
Competition
6 Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky
St. Nicholas Dance
12 Sokol New York Children's
Mikulas Party
13 Sokol Stickney Spaghetti
Dinner
14 Sokol Milwaukee Holiday
Luncheon
14 Sokol New York Unit
Christmas Party
15 Sokol Milwaukee Gym
Christmas Party

A.S.O. Board of Instructors meets every 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 P.M.
A.S.O. Executive Board meets every 4th Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.

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OUR SOKOL CREDO

To build a healthy and beautiful human body,
To cultivate a harmonious and total person,
To develop firm character, a well-rounded disposition and
A love of truth and justice;
To produce strong, lovely and honorable people,
That is the goal of a Sokol education.

THE MEANING OF SOKOL MEMBERSHIP

Aside from being the Slavic word for a falcon, the question "what is a Sokol?" can sometimes be difficult to answer because it can mean so many different things. Normally, one associates Sokol with gymnastics, Slavic ethnic culture and education; however, it is also about national service, sacrifice, patriotism, volunteerism, and democracy. It is no surprise, therefore, that since its inception, every totalitarian regime has either banned or tried to curtail Sokol activities. This was true under the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, where Sokol was totally banned in Slovakia, under the Nazis and Communists, where it was banned altogether in all areas under their control, and it is also true today, as has been relayed to us by our Sokol friends in Serbia.

One can try to answer what a Sokol is by pointing to examples: for instance the extraordinary effort of America's Slovak Sokols who went to great lengths financially, organizationally and militarily to support Masaryk's and Stefanik's efforts in establishing the Czechoslovak Republic after World War I. (Br. Steven Banjak represented Slovak Sokol USA at our 50th Anniversary evening.) One can look at the Sokol names on the plaques listing those who served their adopted country in Sokol New York to find an answer. New York Sokol Hall (represented at our 50th Anniversary by Br. Vladislav Slavik)

is also a historic monument to the Czechoslovak Legions because it acted as a staging area for recruits prior to their assignment overseas. Or one can point to well known personalities like Pope John Paul II, who frequented his local Sokol Hall in Poland until the Nazis arrived. However, another way of illustrating what Sokol can mean is to briefly discuss the lives of individuals that we know or knew locally, who later became members of our own Sokol Washington unit. Gerta Manhalova, for instance, is known for serving our unit for 35 years. However, it should also be known that when she was in Czechoslovakia, she was Secretary to Jan Masaryk, and paid for her Sokol and national activities by being interned in a Nazi concentration camp, which she barely survived. Another Sokol who later became a Sokol Washington member, Jaroslav Sustar, served under Colonel Frantisek Moravec, during World War II. While still in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia Brother Sustar was sentenced to death for sabotage activity against the Nazi war effort, later escaping to Yugoslavia, fighting on the side of the Yugoslav resistance, and finally making his way to London, where President Benes led the Czechoslovak government in exile. Serving under Moravec, he helped in the training of parachutists and the planning of the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, a close aid to Heinrich

Himmler, one of Hitler's principal architects of the Nazi campaign against European Jews. It is noteworthy to point out that when Sustar dispatched his parachutists into Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, beside providing them with arms, munitions, wireless communications and cyanide tablets, he also gave them addresses of local Sokol members where they could seek refuge. I know this to be so, because my father was one of Sustar's parachutists. Br. Sustar once told me: "Whatever you do that helps people, whether you organize a coffee party for our senior members, whether you form a singing or a dance group, or organize Czech and Slovak language classes; it is all work for Sokol. It does not always have to be gymnastics or calisthenics - just do some good for the people around you, and that too is being a Sokol."

Another of our members, Frank Stovicek, was our long time Director of Men (Nacelnik) who would be remembered by most people as the man who taught gymnastics and calisthenics to the children of Sokol Washington. However, his Sokol spirit was not just exhibited on the Slet fields, his "Sokolism" was also displayed by his courageous work as an Intelligence Courier in the 1950's. He performed his intelligence courier services for the United States under the

Continued on Page 8.

CZECH SOKOL ORGANIZATION (Ceska Obec Sokolska)

The Sokol Organization was founded in February 1862 and soon became one of the most important organizations of physical education in (our) country. It was obvious that Sokol was also a patriotic organization and had a profound influence on the cultural and political life in the country. For its steadfast adherence to the ideals of freedom and democracy, Sokol was successively abolished, but it was always being revived, most lately in 1990.

Until 1948, Sokol was our largest physical education and sport organization and its members achieved the highest rewards in international competitions. They participated regularly in the World Gymnastic Championships and in the Olympic Games won numerous medals (Vacha, Hudec, Supcik, women's team, etc.).

This organization is perhaps best known for its famous "Slets," (festivals of physical fitness). In 1910, Sokol was awarded one of

the top prizes - The Olympic Cup.

Since 1990, after 42 years of cruel oppression, much progress has been made. Sokol is again on its way to become an important part of

the democratic forces national revival, honoring the program of the European Charter of Sport. Sokol offers an extensive attractive program for the modern society. Its aim is to guide its members to

physical and moral maturity and continuous self-improvement. In addition to the traditional general fitness and sport disciplines, Sokol also fosters newer trends, such as aerobics, rock and roll, floor-ball, calanetics, etc.

Sokol membership exceeds 180,000, organized in 1,015 Sokol units. Apart from 60 different sports, Sokol members can practice not only general fitness, but also be actively engaged in cultural activities, such as amateur dramatics, puppetry, dance and singing.

From an Article by Jiri Zizka



LOST: SLOVAK FLAG

If anyone found or received a Slovak Flag and metal pole after the opening ceremonies at the past Slet in June, would you please contact Western District Director of Men, Vojmir Banak, 5919 S. 15th Street, Omaha, NE 68107 or call 402-731-2665.

Your help is appreciated.

NA ZDAR!

SIT-UP CHAMPION

American Sokol Little Ferry men's and boys' instructor **TIM KIDES** recently broke his own world record of 125,000 sit ups by squeezing out 125,001. The previous record, set in March, is recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records. His latest accomplishment marks the fifth time Tim has established a world sit up record.

CONGRATULATIONS, TIM!

american **SOKOL** Flag Waver!

The American Sokol Organization gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following donations in direct support of the American Sokol Publication. **NA ZDAR!**

Mrs. Sylvia H. Farris - \$10

See Page 11 for information on how you, too, can become an AMERICAN SOKOL FLAG WAVER!

FUTURE SOKOL LEADERS FUND

Purpose: To train and educate young people to assure able administrators, the best of idealistic instructors and educational directors for Sokol Units and Districts.

In Memory of Edwin Halik from Sokol Berwyn-Slavsky	\$5.00
In Memory of Bozena Vanek, Sokol Town of Lake from J. Daniel & Catherine McManus	\$25.00
In Memory of Rudy Liska, Sokol Milwaukee from George & Jackie Kourim, Sokol Brookfield	\$50.00

MUSEUM, LIBRARY & ARCHIVES FUND

In Memory of Roberta Jean Kubes from Mrs M. Kubes, Sokol Tabor	\$50.00
In Memory of Fred Stankovsky from Emily Stankovsky, Sokol Milwaukee	\$15.00
From Marsha Houdek, Sokol Tabor	\$10.00
In Memory of Deceased Family Members from Mildred (Mara, Stecha) Unruh, Sokol Town of Lake	\$5.00
In Memory of Bozena Vanek, Sokol Town of Lake from Anton Smunt, Sokol Town of Lake	\$25.00

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Henry Zavoral, Sokol Brookfield from Sokol Brookfield	\$50.00
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XIX SLET CONGRATULATIONS

"...I would like to express herewith my sincere congratulations on a very successful Slet! I would (like to) extend to all members of your Slet committee, on behalf of all our Sokol Canada participants, our congratulations and thanks for organizing a great Slet! We certainly enjoyed all Slet events and are very grateful for all the courtesies extended to us."

Jan Waldauf, President, Sokol Canada

"On behalf of (Telocvicna Jednota Sokol I. Smichov - Praha), please accept our hearty congratulations on this important event in your rich and beautiful Sokol life. Even though we are far away in Prague, we are one in heart and soul and wish you continued success."

Karel Syrový, President, Sokol I. Smichov - Prague

"The Board of Instructors of Sokol Greater Cleveland would like to send our congratulations to you for organizing and conducting a successful XIX American Sokol Slet. The many months of hard work and preparation were evident as each day's activities appeared to run smoothly."

**Howie Wise, Men's Director and
Aggie Friend, Women's Director, Sokol Greater Cleveland**

"...I would like to thank you once again for your warm hospitality and congratulate you and everyone very sincerely who in any way helped to make the XIX Sokol Slet such a success. We admire all that you accomplished."

Dr. Jiri Janos, President, Ceska Obec Sokolska

Comments have been edited. Similar sentiments were received from Sokol Jugoslavije (Starestinstvo Saveza), Telocvicna Jednota Sokol Praha Kosire and Klub Angazovanych Nestraniku (Praha) in their native languages.



SMILE!



Brothers Frank and Jim Kalivoda receive 50-year membership pins to Sokol Detroit from George Eisenstein in Fort Myers, Florida.



Sis. Kim Huff, Sokol Baltimore, happy and proud to carry her unit flag at the XIX American Sokol Slet!



Sis. Rosie Steinman, Southern District Official Photographer and the late Bro. Edwin Halik at the XIX American Sokol Slet.



Bro. Jerry Elzner, Sokol Corpus Christi, presents a 1941 Slet Banner to Jaroslav Skopal, President of Sokol Prerov, Czech Republic. The presentation took place in Prerov, Czech Republic. Sokol Prerov is a Sister Sokol of Sokol Corpus Christi, Texas. The 1941 Slet was held at Soldier Field in Chicago.



Bro. Bob Liptak, D.A. Sokol and Bro. Frank Michalek, Sokol Chicagoland.



AMERICAN SOKOL ORGANIZATION

GYMNAST



Editor: Chuck Kalat -- 2401 Bluebonnet Dr., Richardson, Texas 75082

USA GYMNASTICS 1997 NATIONAL CONGRESS AUGUST 13-17 -- Denver, Colorado

This year's USA Gymnastics National Coaches Congress once again attracted nearly 2000 gymnastics coaches, gym owners/administrators, gymnasts, and other gymnastics professionals. Included in this number was a healthy contingent of about 16 Sokol members. Other Sokol members that attended (that I know of) were:

National BOI Members: Chuck Kalat (KHB), Bud Benak (S.Omaha), Sandy Benak (S.Omaha), Lori Laznovsky (KHB), Barbara Barnes (Stickney), Patricia Vondra (Stickney), Helen Onni (Tabor), and Mary Panackia (Detroit)

Sokol Members: Charles Kalat and Lil Laznovsky (KHB); Norma Zabka (New York); Buddy Benak and Joe Berka (So. Omaha); Doris & Belinda Marks (Stickney)

One of the highlights of the Congress for us Sokol folks was the initiation of Jim Hartung (Sokol Omaha), 1980 Olympian and 1984 Olympic Gold Medalist into the United States Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

Roughly 130 individual sessions were presented over the course of the Congress with 9 sessions occurring simultaneously at any given time. The sessions were divided into interest tracks: Sport Science, Business, Education, Alternative Programs, General Gymnastics, Preschool, Womens, Mens, and Rhythmics. There was always at least one session of interest to attend and unfortunately, frequently, more than one session of interest at the same time. Although many of the sessions deal with material/problems more advanced than those normally encountered in our Sokol gyms, there are still many other session which directly relate to our activities. In addition, even the more advanced areas allow for personal growth and a better understanding and appreciation of the sport of gymnastics as it changes year to year. The business related sessions provide insights into how we can run our Sokol "businesses" in a more professional manner.

By way of example of the variety of lectures available, I myself was able to attend the following sessions: Communicating with Parents of Preschoolers, Junior Olympic Program Update, Preschool Kids in Action, The Newest Lesson Plans, Breaking Down Core Skills, Preview of the 1999 World Gymnaestrada, Up Close and Personal -The Real Story Behind the Scenes of the Olympic Games, Tips for Communicating with Preschool-age Gymnasts, Ideas for School-Age Classes, General Gymnastics - Rules & Policies, and Skill-Specific Lesson Planning. There was a special emphasis this year on General Gymnastics. Sis. Lori Laznovsky was involved in presenting the General Gymnastics sessions and coordinated the presentation of GG numbers for exhibition.

In addition to the technical sessions, the various United States Association of Gymnastics Equipment Suppliers provided a huge equipment exhibit area with everything from grips, shoes, and leotards, awards, insurance, to the latest in gymnastic equipment and much more. It easily took several hours just to browse around, and I am sure that everyone came home with a stack of catalogs and a really long 'wish list'.

Also, once again this year, the Congress was held in conjunction with the United States Gymnastics Championships giving us the opportunity to view 4 sessions of the best gymnastics the United States has to offer in Senior Men and Senior Womens divisions. We missed the Jr Men and Jr Womens sessions because they were held during the day and thus conflicted with Congress sessions.

Coming in contact with all these gymnastic professionals at Congress is always interesting. It is amazing the level of enthusiasm, dedication, creativity, and love of their work that these folks exude and share. I wish more of us could have that same level of enthusiasm and dedication for our Sokol work. Although I learn many new things each time I attend the Congress, the big thing I always bring back is a renewed enthusiasm for what I am doing and a few new tricks to try.

Jan Kalat

Northeastern District Competitions

April 26, 1997

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls Novice

1. Samantha Shultz	Gr. Cleveland
2. Rhiannon Rodgers	Gr. Cleveland
3. Lisa Meyer	Gr. Cleveland
4. Mary Lanzola	Gr. Cleveland
5. Ellen Bartunek	Gr. Cleveland

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls Level 2

1. Gretchen Vencl	Gr. Cleveland
2. Michelle Ferrara	Gr. Cleveland
3. Karla Pinnizzotto	Gr. Cleveland
4. Emilee Ritter	Detroit
5. Tara Pappas	Gr. Cleveland
6. Christine Newman	Gr. Cleveland

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls Level 4

1. Laura Borovsky	Detroit
2. Dana Bohach	Gr. Cleveland
3. Maria Pinnizzotto	Gr. Cleveland
4. Angela Wise	Gr. Cleveland
5. Megan Levesque	Detroit
6. Laura Scott	Detroit
7. Megan Giacchina	Detroit
8. Maya Simek	Gr. Cleveland
9. Stephanie Bohach	Gr. Cleveland
10. Angela Bartik	Gr. Cleveland
11. Suzanne Bures	Gr. Cleveland

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls Level 5

1. Kathy Kavan	Gr. Cleveland
2. Amber Winkley	Gr. Cleveland
3. Carly Kasmer	Gr. Cleveland
4. Dana Kasmer	Gr. Cleveland
5. Alanna Romansky	Gr. Cleveland

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Boys Novice

1. Stephen Lanzola	Gr. Cleveland
2. Charlie Beckerman	Gr. Cleveland
3. Tony Bartik	Gr. Cleveland

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Boys Class 7

1. Michael Wise	Gr. Cleveland
2. Jonathon Ciesla	Gr. Cleveland
3. Tom Necasek	Gr. Cleveland
4. Blair Panackia	Detroit

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Boys Class 6

1. Kevin Fitzpatrick	Gr. Cleveland
2. Steve Wise	Gr. Cleveland
3. Eric Singley	Detroit

Central District Competitions

June 14, 1997

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls 12/14 Level 2

1. Tori Kathrein	Tabor	43.40
2. Stephanie Bujak	Chicagoland	40.70
3. Karen Kalal	Tabor	40.35
4. Anne Kocek	Chicagoland	40.15
5. Krissy Hahn	Brookfield	39.35
6. Amanda Riccio	Brookfield	39.05
7. Laurie Sirek	Tabor	38.40
8. Irene Jakubiak	USA Lodge 306	38.15
9. Susan Bukovsky	Chicagoland	37.65
10. Tiffany Sanders	Brookfield	37.10
11. Jennifer Klonowski	Chicagoland	37.05
12. Christine Maskill	Berwyn-Slavsky	36.50
13. Costa Lawrence	Berwyn-Slavsky	35.90
14. Christine English	Chicagoland	33.60
15. Diana Flores	Berwyn-Slavsky	29.00

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls 12-14 Level 4

1. Erin Kokta	Milwaukee	41.05
2. Thalassa Millwood	USA Lodge 306	40.45
3. Julie Polanin	Naperville	39.75
4. Stacy Opiela	Brookfield	38.65
5. Kelly Magyarics	Berwyn-Slavsky	37.55
6. Christy Hodapp	Brookfield	37.00
7. Heidi Sanders	Brookfield	36.90
8. Shauna Harlan	Brookfield	36.80
9. Stacey Domzalski	Chicagoland	36.75
10. Liz Foster	Brookfield	35.80
11. Edna Beltran	Berwyn-Slavsky	35.05
12. Tracy Noehrenberg	Naperville	34.20
13. Angeli DelCarlo	Naperville	31.60
14. Claire Hruska	Milwaukee	31.30

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls 12/14 Level 5

1. Rachel Janega	USA Lodge 306	37.75
2. Allison Lickeig	Berwyn-Slavsky	36.90
3. Teresa Kulhanek	Tabor	36.80
4. Cassie Croft	Berwyn-Slavsky	34.60
5. Leah Bures	Berwyn-Slavsky	30.50
6. Brittany Statler	Tabor	29.95

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls 15/18 Level 4

1. Angela Logiudice	Tabor	42.25
2. Beth Kocsek	Chicagoland	41.85
3. Carolyn Lopez	Berwyn-Slavsky	37.30
4. Megan Jones	Berwyn-Slavsky	28.70

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls 15/18 Level 5

1. Nita Praditpan	USA Lodge 306	39.60
2. Traci Maki	Berwyn-Slavsky	29.20

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls 15/18 Optional

1. Kate Stahulak	Chicagoland	77.05
2. Janet Lutha	Berwyn-Slavsky	76.00
3. Karyn Domzalski	Chicagoland	70.70
4. Sarah Bujak	Chicagoland	69.30

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Boys Novice

1. Chris Pros	Tabor	55.20
2. Pat Hickey	Tabor	54.70
3. Jon Kovar-Tookey	Brookfield	52.65
4. Ryan Harlan	Brookfield	52.45
5. Micheal Maskowski	Tabor	52.40
6. David Maskowski	Tabor	50.50
7. John Norley	Tabor	49.50
8. Casey Kocush	Berwyn-Slavsky	45.05

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Boys Class 7

1. Paul Koc	Stickney	64.10
2. Tim Pachla	Berwyn-Slavsky	59.80
3. David Aguirre	Brookfield	58.75
4. George Szydlo	Brookfield	57.90
5. Christopher Chrobak	Berwyn-Slavsky	56.85
6. Doug Gilbert	Berwyn-Slavsky	56.80
7. Scott Johnstone	Brookfield	54.70
8. Joe Maki	Berwyn-Slavsky	54.25
9. Warren Wilke	USA Lodge 306	51.75
10. Owen Reynolds	USA Lodge 306	51.55

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Boys Class 6

1. Steven Walde	USA Lodge 306	58.85
2. Joseph Kucera	Naperville	58.55
3. Mathew Kocek	Chicagoland	56.65
4. Isaiah Thompsen	USA Lodge 306	55.35
5. John Janega	USA Lodge 306	53.55

Artistic Gymnastics - Women 18-24 Mod Level 2

1. Florence DelCarlo	Chicagoland	43.90
2. Jenny Perrew	Tabor	43.45
3. Tracy Konior	Chicagoland	42.25
4. Cathy Kocek	Chicagoland	41.45
5. Beverly Domzalski	Chicagoland	38.25

Artistic Gymnastics - Women 18-24 Mod Level 4

1. Christina Curran	Tabor	45.55
2. Anny Moravec	Chicagoland	45.20
3. Laura Blanchong	Chicagoland	45.15
4. Andrea Scheirer	Chicagoland	43.60
5. Nicole Marchluk	Berwyn-Slavsky	40.25

Artistic Gymnastics - Women 25-34 Mod Level 2

1. Kathe Pajer	Berwyn-Slavsky	44.00
2. Debbie Milas	Berwyn-Slavsky	43.40

Artistic Gymnastics - Men Class 7

1. Ted Polashek	Tabor	63.35
2. Bob Kucera	Naperville	60.45
3. John Bazata	Brookfield	60.25
4. Bob Barcal	Berwyn-Slavsky	60.15
5. Joe Pajer	Berwyn-Slavsky	58.00
6. Kenneth Nagel	Berwyn-Slavsky	57.65

Artistic Gymnastics - Men Class 6

1. Jay Vondra	Stickney	65.30
2. Tom Pajer	Berwyn-Slavsky	63.55
2. Richard Vachata	Stickney	63.55
4. Matt Gilbert	Berwyn-Slavsky	62.30
5. Mike Mongello	Berwyn-Slavsky	60.40
6. Michael Michalek	Chicagoland	59.55
7. Dave Pachla	Berwyn-Slavsky	58.95
8. Gregory Becker	Berwyn-Slavsky	55.70
9. Dominic Mongello	Berwyn-Slavsky	54.60

Artistic Gymnastics - Men Masters II

1. Jim Sptel	Berwyn-Slavsky	59.65
2. Alex Chrobak	Berwyn-Slavsky	54.40

Southern District Competitions**June 7, 1997****Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls 12/14 Level 2**

1. Rosemary Soto	Houston	39.90
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Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls 12/14 Level 4

1. Jasmine Isom	KHB-Ennis	40.60
2. Lisa Corbitt	West	39.40
3. Rachelle Rosborough	Corpus Christi	35.40
4. Kira Winsten	Houston	34.20
5. Mallory Donaldson	Houston	33.80
6. Colette Kenny	Dallas	33.00
7. Jennifer Crookham	Corpus Christi	30.90

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls 12/14 Level 5

1. Haley Henning	KHB-Ennis	42.30
2. Amanda Harkey	Dallas	38.90
3. Amy Forni	Corpus Christi	34.40
4. Jenniger McKain	Dallas	34.30
5. Johanna Ryza	Corpus Christi	32.90
6. Michelle Mercer	KHB-Ennis	32.70
7. Audrey Arnoff	Dallas	29.70

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls 15/18 Level 5

1. Carah Ronan	Ft. Worth	41.70
2. Diane Hermis	Houston	39.50

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls 12/14 Level 6

1. Calli Ronan	Ft. Worth	44.00
2. Stephanie Langer	KHB-Ennis	39.30
3. Jennifer Caldwell	Ft. Worth	38.90

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Girls 15/18 Level 6

1. Kristen King	Ft. Worth	40.60
2. Sarah Horton	West	39.00
3. Leigh Ann Phillips	Ft. Worth	38.90

Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Boys 12/14 Mod Class 7

1. Robert Gartside	Dallas	51.40
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Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Boys 15/18 Mod Class 7

1. Nick Gartside	Dallas	57.20
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Artistic Gymnastics - Jr. Boys 12/14 Mod Class 5

1. Mario Rinche	Houston	55.20
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Artistic Gymnastics - Men Mod Class 7

1. Ryan Mullican	KHB-Ennis	60.60
2. Fernando Gonzalez	Houston	50.60

Artistic Gymnastics - Men Mod Class 5

1. Corey Kern	Ft. Worth	56.40
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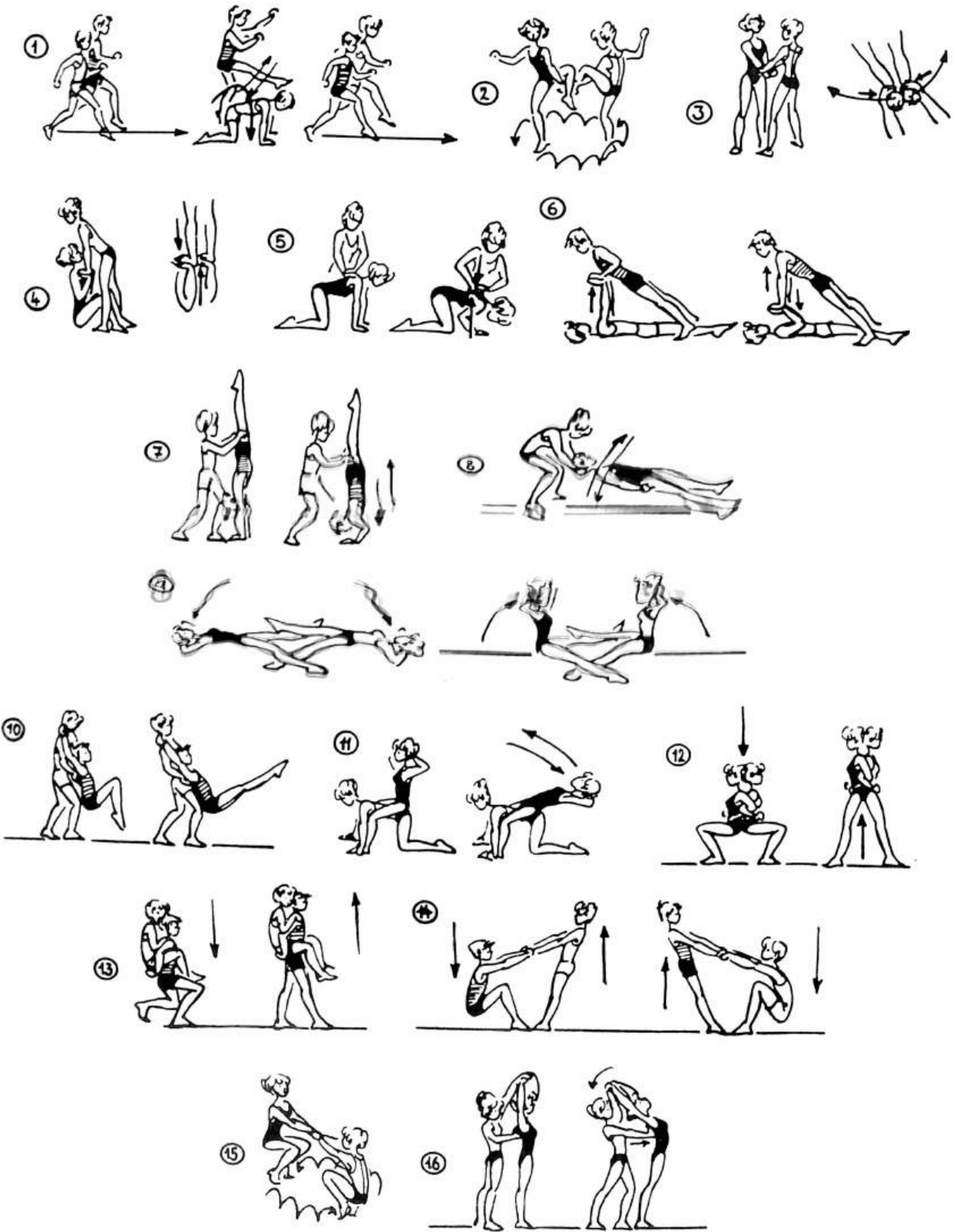
WHAT SOKOL MEANS TO ME

Willow Kotlan - Sokol Ceska Sin

Since my parents started me in the gym at age two-and-a-half, Sokol has always been a part of my life and meant many things to me over the years. It has meant learning discipline and hard work, it has also taught me self confidence and respect and most of all Sokol has meant making lasting friendships and having fun. For as long as I can remember I have always looked forward to attending my weekly classes at the gym. It always meant getting together with people who really cared about me. The self confidence I have gained from being apart of the Sokol family will follow me throughout my life. Sokol has also opened the door to many new experiences for me. In the past fifteen years Sokol has given me the chance to travel to many different places and to participate in the National Slets. I have learned what it is like to be a part of both winning and losing teams. Through this I have learned good sportsmanship and respect for my coaches and fellow opponents. The friendships I have gained from being a part of the Sokol organization are numerous. I have met people from all over the country and I continually look forward to seeing them at each Slet. Sokol has given me so many new opportunities to experience. Besides gymnastics, we have hiking weekends, ski weekends and picnics that I have participated in. I help at hall dinners which benefit both the Hall and our gym, in terms of camaraderie and the spirit of volunteering to be helpful. I am very grateful to all Sokol has done for me. It has been an important part of my life so far and I intend for it to stay important throughout the rest of my life.

ABC Kidzine Online

Jim Brown, Executive Editor of the *Penn State Sports Medicine Newsletter*, is the sports expert for the ABC online children's magazine, *Kidzine*. Dr. Brown, provides weekly sports tips, answers questions about sports, develops games and contests, and conducts monthly live chat sessions. Your children can visit the site on America Online, Keyword: ABC *Kidzine*, then Games, Sportzine, and Coach Jim's Corner.



OUR AMERICAN FLAG



So much patriotism and sacrifice are symbolized by the American flag that it is hard for us today to realize that the star-spangled banner did not have a single dramatic moment of birth. Rather, the flag's origin, as that of the nation itself, evolved slowly from humble beginnings, and it was shaped by many hands - though probably not those of Betsy Ross. The latest historical sleuthing indicates that her involvement, despite history book accounts, may well have been fictive. And no authority today can claim with certainty who first proposed the now-familiar design, or even when and where the Stars and Stripes was first unfurled.

What, then, can we say about the origin of a flag that the military salutes, millions of schoolchildren pledge allegiance to, and many home owners hang from a front porch pole every Fourth of July?

It is well documented that General George Washington, on New Year's Day of 1776, displayed over his camp outside Boston an improvised "Grand Union Flag." It

combined both British and American symbols. One upper corner bore the two familiar crosses - St. George's for England and St. Andrew's for Scotland - which had long been part of the British emblem. But the background field had thirteen red and white stripes to represent the American colonies. Since the fighting colonists, including Washington, still claimed to be subjects of the British crown, it's not surprising that their homemade flag should carry evidence of that loyalty.

The earliest historical mention of an entirely American "Stars and Stripes" flag - composed of thirteen alternating red and white stripes and thirteen stars on a blue field - is in a resolution of the Continental Congress dated June 14, 1777. Since Congress, and the country, had more urgent matters to resolve than a finalized, artistic flag design, the government stipulated no specific rules about the flag's size or arrangement of details. It even failed to supply Washington's army with official flags until 1783, after all the major war battles had ended.

During the Revolutionary War, the American army and navy fought under a confused array of local, state, and homemade flags. They were adorned variously with pine and palmetto trees, rattlesnakes, eagles, stripes of red, blue and yellow and stars of gold - to mention a few.

In fact, it was not until 1814, nearly forty years after its authorization by Congress, that the flag began to be widely discussed by Americans as a symbol of the country. In that year, an American flag bearing fifteen stars flew over Fort Henry at Baltimore, inspiring Francis Scott Key to write "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Where in the gradual, piecemeal evolution of the American flag does the figure of the Philadelphia seamstress born Elizabeth Griscom belong?

BETSY ROSS

When John Ross, an upholsterer, was killed in a munitions explosion in 1776, his wife, Betsy, took over operation of their tailoring business. The Ross store was on Philadelphia's Arch Street, not far from the State House, on Chestnut Street, where history was being made almost daily.

According to legend, Betsy Ross was visited at her shop by general George Washington in June of 1776. They were supposed to have discussed various flag designs. And Washington allegedly settled for one composed of seven red and six white stripes and thirteen five-pointed white stars arranged in a circle - though he had requested six-pointed stars. Betsy Ross is said to have convinced him that it would be easier for her to cut out five-pointed stars. When the

Continued on Page 9.

THE MEANING OF SOKOL MEMBERSHIP (CONTINUED)

leadership of the Czechoslovak Intelligence Commander, Frantisek Moravec, rescuing people condemned to prison by the Communist authorities in Czechoslovakia, and bringing them to safety in the west. That continual display of caring and courage, necessary to cross into and return from communist Czechoslovakia on numerous occasions in the 1950's, that too was part of being a Sokol.

Brother Jaroslav Kaspar-Paty is known to our Washington Czechoslovak community as a tireless organizer and worker in Sokol and other Czechoslovak society functions. But how many people know that he was actually born Jaroslav Kaspar? His alias during the war was Paty, the Czech word for "fifth" signifying the roman numeral "V" similar to Churchill's "V" for Victory. After Munich in 1938, as a former Czechoslovak Air Force and Intelligence Officer, Paty was

part of a group that formed the military underground organization called Obrana Národa (Defense of the Nation), where he was responsible for setting up clandestine escape routes for volunteers who would eventually serve against Germany. Between April 1939 and February 1940, Paty helped move 1,500 people to freedom, 300 of whom were pilots, sorely needed by the British during the Battle of Britain! Later, he was responsible for freeing up to 500 refugees detained in Hungarian prisons, and for restoring the flow of escapees through Hungary and Yugoslavia to England. He continued in intelligence work throughout the war, exposing Fierlinger and others as Soviet collaborators, when he reached England in 1943. After serving out the rest of the War in England, he returned to Czechoslovakia, only to have to flee in 1948, because of the communist coup d'etat. He

immediately went to work for the United States Central Intelligence Agency, leading a Czechoslovak intelligence courier group. After emigrating to the US, he worked for the United States Library of Congress, and from 1970 until his death, he served as an intelligence analyst for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. There is no real need here to recount the work he did in our community, because we are all familiar with that aspect of his life. What we can see, more importantly, is a common thread between his professional and social lives, and that is the willingness to serve. To serve your country, to serve your community, to serve your people - that was in his soul, that was part of his very being and that should not be a surprise to anyone; after all he was a Sokol member since age five. "And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, but ask" you know the rest. Now, do you know what a Sokol is?

Federal Courthouse Named for Bro. Roman Hruska

Former Senator Roman L. Hruska was honored at the groundbreaking for the Roman L. Hruska United States Courthouse in Omaha, Nebraska. Dignitaries on hand were Nebraska Governor Nelson, Senator Bob Kerry of Nebraska, retired Senator J.J. Exon of Nebraska and others. Bro Hruska is a member of Sokol Omaha and spoke at the American Sokol Organization's 125th Anniversary Banquet, as well as at many Slets. The American Sokol Organization wishes him continued success.

THE VOICE

Reader Quips, Comments & Queries

Dear Sister Pat,

Dekuje for putting in a notice of our national conference in the June issue of the American Sokol. Working together is the only way we can all preserve our heritage.

Na Zdar!

*Mark Vasko Bigaouette
President, Czechoslovak Genealogical
Society International*

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OUR AMERICAN FLAG (CONTINUED)

general departed, legend has it, the seamstress commenced stitching the official American flag.

Historians find it significant that not a single one of the numerous flags that flew at different times and places during the Revolutionary War is of the design alleged to be the handiwork of Betsy Ross.

Further, the tale recounted in history books was told by Betsy Ross herself - on her deathbed in 1836, and to her eleven-year-old grand son, William J. Canby. Betsy Ross at the time was eighty-four years old. Canby, in turn, did not publicly relate the tale until 1870, when he presented it at a meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Society. That was thirty-four years

after he had heard it as a boy, and almost a hundred years after the incident was alleged to have occurred.

Historical records verify that George Washington was in Philadelphia in June of 1776. But in his written itinerary, there is no mention of a meeting with a local seamstress. Nor in Washington's diary is there any evidence of his concern with the design of an official American flag. In fact, Congress had not yet convened a committee to tackle any flag design, nor at the time was there congressional talk of replacing the Grand Union Flag. Washington had made personal modifications in that flag, combining American

with British features, but he had not expressed a desire to abandon it entirely. The consensus among historians who have investigated the Betsy Ross legend is that it's no more than that - a legend: a non-verifiable story handed down from generation to generation. And one begun by the lady herself.

History and legend, though, have a way of blending in the crucible of time. Betsy Ross' deathbed tale has inextricably rooted itself in the heart of American folklore. And whether in time it is unequivocally proved or disproved, it almost assuredly will be told and retold.

From Panati's Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things by Charles Panati

American Sokol Organization Quarterly Financial Report

April, May, June 1997

Submitted by Bro. John Satek, Financial Secretary

RECEIPTS

Dues	\$21,514.13
Convention Fund, 4th Qtr. 1996	699.52
Subscriber ASO Publication	34.00
Resale Jewelry/Membership Pins	442.00
Educational Booklets	5.00
BOI Skills/Ribbons/Tapes	631.00
Sokol Manual	15.00
Flag Waver Donation	30.00
Old Souvenirs	3.00
Sokol Plate	30.00
Labels	12.95
Stadium Seats	12.00
XVIII Slet Video	10.00
Donation	50.00
On Line Donation, J. Milan	240.00
Uniform Dept. Salaries (Mar., Apr.)	575.09
Uniform Dept. FICA/Medicare (Mar., Apr.)	101.86
Uniform Dept. FWT Tax (Mar., Apr.)	20.00
Uniform Dept. IWT Tax (Mar., Apr.)	19.98
Uniform Dept. Phone/Fax	41.40
Uniform Dept. Rent (Apr., May)	650.00
TOTAL	\$25,136.93

DISBURSEMENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE DEPT.

Salaries (Apr., May, June)	\$3,105.93
FICA/Medicare (Mar., Apr., May)	547.62
FWT (Mar., Apr., May)	65.00
IWT, 1st Quarter	76.81
Ameritech/Equalnet/Phone/Fax	287.68
Com Ed	171.41
CPA (Apr., May, June)	510.00
Petty Cash, Postage	89.80
Office Supplies	137.38
Janitor/Supplies	52.28
Insurance	50.00
Czech Natl. Council Dues	120.00
Bank Deposit Slips	131.24
Rent (May, June)	1,994.00
TOTAL	\$7,339.15

BOARD OF INSTRUCTORS

Salaries (Apr., May, June)	\$2,187.93
FICA/Medicare (Mar., Apr., May)	343.76
FWT (Mar., Apr., May)	45.00
IWT, 1st Quarter	66.21
Ameritech/Equalnet/Phone/FAX	619.99
Office Supplies	34.85
Petty Cash/Postage	83.93
Field Markers	80.81
Tapes	8.00
Ellen Lacina	106.50
Editor "Gymnast"	60.00
TOTAL	\$3,636.98

EDUCATION

Salary	\$540.40
FICA/Medicare	58.44
FWT	15.00
IWT, 1st Quarter	8.84
Postage	33.01
Picture Mounting/Frame/Shrink Wrap	52.27
TOTAL	\$707.96

PUBLICATION

Salaries (Mailing)	\$309.70
FICA/Medicare	57.78
FWT	10.00
Printing	3,105.86
Postage/Address Changes	53.50
Supplies	16.79
Editor	300.00
TOTAL	\$3,853.63

UNIFORM DEPARTMENT

Salaries (Apr., May, June)	\$1,007.20
FICA/Medicare (Mar., Apr., May)	170.74
FWT (Mar., Apr., May)	30.00
IWT, 1st Quarter	32.31
Ameritech/Equalnet/Phone/FAX	46.70
Supplies	7.53
Rent (May, June)	650.00
TOTAL	\$1,944.48

MISCELLANEOUS

Jewelry Refund	\$54.25
CNCA Ad	100.00
Internet	170.00
School Board	14.40
ASO Instr. School Advance	2,000.00
Misc.	3.35
TOTAL	\$2,342.00

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Receipts	+\$25,136.93
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