

SOKOLSKÝ VĚSTNÍK

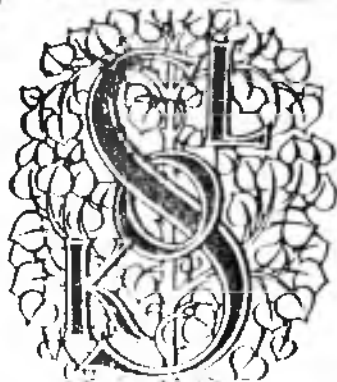
Bulletin of
Gymnastic Association
Sokol San Francisco

P.O. BOX 4006
MENLO PARK, CA. 94026-4006

1999

LEDEN - JANUARY

Issue No:1



*Warmest greetings
of the Season and
Every good wish for
happiness in the
New Year!*

ONE YEAR LATER....

Last month we observed a one year anniversary of sale of our Sokol Hall. We can look on this date with the mixed emotions. One part of our members, those who knew the whole financial situation will claim, that it was blessing for our organization, that the sale occurred just in the crucial time, before we could lose everything - being unable to pay bank's installments. The other part of membership not closely involved in the activities of San Francisco Sokol is perhaps complaining, that the sale was not urgent and we should hang on. I think this matter was wholly explained and should be laid to rest.

In my article published in the January 98 Sokol Vestnik I wrote: "Many members will not notice the change at all, as they were detached from the unit anyhow, but a few of us, who were tirelessly trying to save what we inherited from the previous generations, we will experience the great change. This hall was our common meeting place, this hall was OUR SECOND HOME. It was place where we could reach each other regularly, place where we can say aloud what we like or don't like, where we could find out what we have in common. In this building we conducted business just like in our own home, not afraid to step anywhere or look around the corner and not to be afraid that somebody is watching you. Hardly any body now can visualize what change this will bring to our community, but make no mistake, it will cause a great impact. We will have Sokol organization, but NO HOME LIKE WE USED TO HAVE and we will miss it dearly."

For the few of us, who are almost daily involved in the Sokol unit business, it can not be more true. We sure miss it dearly as our meeting place and as our home. It is also well known, that if somebody lost the home it brings a lot of confusion like: what next, what to do now and where to go next and so on. Today I would like to present - in the short overview - what happened during the year after the sale what difficulties we met, what we had done and what we want to do in the future.

Our first worries were where to conduct our monthly meetings. Through generous offer of our members we were able to do the business in their private homes, always in different location. It was very difficult to drive at night, in a heavy traffic and search for the home, where the meeting should be held. I think, that we were lucky and finally found the place, where we can meet regularly every month from now on. This place is

**BAY AREA EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Suite No: 106 at
ANZA Corp. Center,
433 Airport Blvd., BURLINGAME, CA 94010**

All Sokol members were informed in detail how to get to this place. This meeting place is centrally located from all directions of Bay Area. There is plenty of parking spaces and we hope, that it will attract more Sokol members to attend the regular monthly meetings.

Our next worries were, where to held our dances and other cultural activities. So far we accepted the offer of Schroeder's Restaurant in San Francisco, where we had the dances this year. We think, that this location is not permanent, as it does not fit our future planned cultural and other Sokol activities

For the gymnastic apparatus and other inventory, namely the books, which we were not able to dispose, we had to rent a storage space in Belmont. This storage space is rather expensive as that gym apparatus take a lot of room, but now we can refer, that about two months ago we got rid of all gymnastic apparatus and we will be able renegotiate the smaller storage room.

I should not forget the first and the most important matter which had to be dealt first of all - money left after all obligations were settled. The repayments of loans with interest to our members who formed

so called "Partnership" to help Sokol during the financial crisis, were all completed. After all, I don't think this was a bad investment for our members.

We also paid in full accumulated membership dues to the Sokol Pacific District in Los Angeles and to American Sokol Organization in Chicago.

A special "Financial committee" was elected during the year, which is handling the money from the sale of Sokol hall. This money were invested in 4 or 5 different groups, all of them being very conservative investments.

"Sokol Vestnik" was not effected by the above happenings, due to the fact, that the very small staff of 2 persons are involved. Vestnik was printed and distributed roughly every 6 weeks - except during the summer vacation months. So far this year 7 issues of Vestnik were printed. Editor would gladly appreciate if more members would participate and bring some of their stories or articles. For the entire year there were only 4 other contributors to the Vestnik.

Our future: We would like to enlarge the activity of Sokol San Francisco, especially the cultural and artistic programs. Also outdoor activities - picnics - excursions - sightseeing and other. But again, we need broader members involvement and more of our members participate. Those 5 or 6 officers, who are in charge now can not make miracles. It could be done if more members would join us and would be willing to take part in the activities of our unit.

At this special time we all shall remember and sincerely thank to all of those, who are sacrificing time and labor to keep the Sokol spirit and activity alive in the entire Bay Area until now. Ninety four years of dignified history of San Francisco Sokol is a record to be proud of and I am sure that many members are feeling the same way.

N a z d a r !

Jan Kucera

Who Was St. Nicholas - Sv. Mikulaš ?

Few saints enjoy such great popularity and few are credited with so many miracles as St. Nicholas. Born at Patara, in Lycia (modern Turkey) he ruled a great monastery, was imprisoned for his faith and ended his life as Archbishop of Myra - now Turkey.

Legends about St. Nicholas and his miracles multiplied rapidly. The best known deal with saving children from tragedy. It is doubtless the story of his restoring life to the children put in the salting tub, which caused him to become the patron and the benefactor of school children. Another legend tells us that St. Nicholas was, it seems, on his way to the Council of Nicaea (modern Iznik-Turkey), when he entered an inn whose owner, not content with having killed two young boys for the sake of their meager purse, had cut them up and was about to sell them piecemeal to his clients. The bishop restored them to life and then converted this murderer. His miracles were a favourite subject for medieval artists and liturgical plays thus contributing further to spreading his reputation. His traditional feast day, December 6, was the occasion for the Christian ceremonies.

The transformation of Nicholas into Father Christmas occurred when Dutch Protestant settlers in New Amsterdam (now the city of New York) replaced Nicholas ("Sinter Claes") with the benevolent magician who became known as Santa Claus. In the United States and England, St. Nicholas is patron of Christmas, traditionally regarded as a festival of family and of children, when presents are exchanged.

St. Nicholas cared especially for children and his whole life devoted to them, saving them, healing them and giving them lot of presents. He was of noble origin and from wealthy family, but when he died 325 A.D. he was a poor man.

THE VOYAGE THROUGH RUSSIAN RIVERS

This summer we took a trip in Russia. It was a voyage on a Swiss ship called Kirov, carrying some 200 passengers and staff. The title was "Waterways of Czarist capitals"! It started in the middle of Aug. 98 at St. Petersburg and travelled through Russian rivers Neva, Volga and large lakes Ladoga and Onega sea, Rybinskoye lake with help of many locks through waterways to Moscow.

It was very interesting trip with sightseeing of cities and towns located along the rivers. We were shown many Russian Orthodox historical churches, monasteries, museums, galleries.

St. Petersburg itself is remarkable city. Founded in 1703 by Peter the Great as his capital in desire to have connections with Europe from Baltic sea. It is laying on both sides of river Neva with many impressive palaces. The world known Hermitage built by Katharine the Great 5 km long is in Winter Palace. It contains artistic and historical treasures, some one million pieces of unbelievable wealth and art.

Russian Orthodox churches like Church of Resurrection are spectacularly ornate, restored to sparkling multicolored beauty with many golden copulas. Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul contains sepulchres of Romanov's Czarist families. There lies Peter the Great and Czarist descendants. Recently was added the Czar Nicolas II with his whole family. You know that they were executed by Communists in 1917 and secretly buried in unmarked location. This year they were found and with ceremonies were transferred into this cathedral.

There are others like Kazan cathedral and churches as spectacular inside with scores of icons. Even the city government buildings are exquisite in order to impress with its grace, elegance and attractiveness. St. Petersburg has wide and impressive boulevards. The city has many statues and of course of Peter the Great, Katherine the Great, the poet Pushkin and such.

The visit of this city of 5 million citizens was concluded by the evening performance by Stavrol folkloric dancing ensemble, dynamic, fast and unforgettable.

For eleven days, we travelled on the water with many locks which either lifted our ship or lowered it to another river level perhaps like 30.

The riches and opulence of historical buildings and churches contrast sharply with low living standard of its citizens. The conditions are at survival level. When we read the Russian history, it revealed that the Russian people were always shortchanged while few had too much!

Our first stop was on Kizhi island, very North on lake Onega, where Russian population escaped when Mongols pushed them out of Central region (1240-1450). Winters there are freezing. Farming buildings were built to enclose also their cattle, chickens and domestic animals. Buildings also were elaborately built remarkably without any nails in them. Today only few people are left there.

Next ship stop was in Kostroma, the very old city founded in 10th century, where from Romanov family originated. Our visit belonged to Trinity church and Ipatievsky monastery.

Yaroslavl was next on our journey, it impressed us with its theatre of performing arts, its puppet museum. Yaroslavl was founded in 1010 year, when Kiev was its capital city. Today it has 40 thousand people. We admired the monastery of the Transfiguration, where the male singing choir sang for us.

In Uglich on Volga river, we heard the moving story of the assassination of the youngest son of Ivan, the Terrible Dimitrij in 1591. Next in line to the throne, Dimitrij was only 9 years old. The assassins were government administrators from Moscow. The bell man from the tower saw the crime and rang the church bell till the citizens of Uglich ran in and beat up the assassins. However Moscow sent investigators and they concluded that Dimitrij in epileptic seizure fell on his knife. The people in Uglich were punished as a consequence. 300 families were exiled to Siberia including the bell!

In Moscow was Boris Godunov, a relative of Czar's family aspiring to be the ruler. With his ascent to the throne, big unrest started. People suspected that the assassination of Dimitrij was his doing. Political situation calmed only when the Romanovs in 1606 became rulers.

The Dimitrij was then proclaimed the saint and big church was built on the historical spot and the Uglich families were called back from the exile in Siberia, including the bell was brought back.

On all the stops were many vendors with Russian made merchandise (handpainted dolls, boxes, scarfs and amber), who preferred to be paid in dollars than in rubbles.

The only detriment to our trip was very cold weather, which in California we could consider Winter weather. The locals objected, "In Winter, we have sometimes 20° below zero!"

Moscow was impressive. Now with some 10 million inhabitants, also has traffic problems. The churches and government buildings are big, well maintained with wide boulevards between them. Our sightseeing included Kremlin with State Historical Museum, Red Square, St. Basil & Saint Assumption Cathedrals, Mausoleum of Lenin and with all Communist heads and The Gums. One day belonged to Pushkin museum and Predjakovss's Art museum.

Most impressive for us was a visit to the former building of K.G.B. (former N.K.V.D.) secret police. We were shown photos of all its heads, many of which were executed by Stalin, who did not trust anybody.

In Moscow were visibly handsome people. They impressed us as well dressed. We realized clothes are their main property. We also noticed how thriftily they could afford to eat.

We visited opulent Iusupov Palace, well known as palace where Rasputin, the holy monk and devilish person who ruined the reputation of Nicolas II czar's family, was murdered. Iusupov family was richer than Czar himself.

The exchange between Russian Rubble was 6.70 for one U.S. Dollar. The prices were set very high, particularly for its Russian citizens. Last days of our stay, the exchange started to rise, now being 16 Rubbles for one U.S. Dollar. The nervousity was already in the air.

Moscow airport was an experience! Not well organized and overcrowded. Our plane was 2 hours late, but we were relieved to be in the air!

We concluded that we made two trips of Russia in one: The first and the last!

By Georgina Teyrovsky

U.S. Schools Behind - Czechs On Top In Global Competition

FROM TOP OF THE CLASS TO THE BOTTOM

Comparing the United States with nine other selected countries.

In the 1950s, the U.S. high school graduation rate was among the highest in the developed world.

Approximate percentage earning diploma. But in the 1980s, other countries moved into the top rank ...

and now the U.S. is behind.



Source: "Education at a Glance: OECD Indicators 1998," Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

New York Times Graphic

A major new international study shows that school completion rates in several industrialized countries have surpassed those of the United States. The report was released recently by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a group based in Paris and composed of 29 of the richest countries.

Earlier last year, the results of a mathematics and science test of 12th graders in many countries showed Americans to be among the least knowledgeable. Today's graduation rates, with the United States at 72 percent, place it second to last in the 29-nation group, with only Mexico lower.

The news rankles because graduation rates are a strong indicator of an educated workforce. And in the global economy, a lower standing in graduation rates does not bode well for U.S. competitiveness.

The authors noted that the United States devotes a smaller percentage of its national income to teacher salaries than other countries (????). Teaching is also much more highly regarded and respected as a profession in other countries. The OECD report is just another example of the work cut out for educators. Add national pride to the reasons to act quickly.

Brothers and Sisters the time for payment of Sokol dues is **N O W**.
You can use the below preprinted card.

1998 Dues --Pay Now
Send Your Dues - \$ 25.00
per Member to
GYMNASTIC ASSOC.
SOKOL SAN FRANCISCO
P.O. Box 4006
MENLO PARK, CA 94026

Enclosed check - Money order in the amount of \$.....
My membership dues for the year 199.....\$.....
Donation - Contribution (if any).....\$.....
Name.....
Address.....
City.....State.....Zip.....

Sokol San Francisco Monthly Meetings are held every second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 P.M. in *Bay Area Executive Office, in Burlingame, Cal.* - For detail see Page 2 of this VESTNIK. This place is easy to reach from any direction of Bay Area and there are plenty of parking spaces. We hope to see you there on the next meeting. Put it on your Calendar!!!

Sokol San Francisco Annual Meeting:

was held Sunday, December 13, 1998 - 10.A.M. in Cafe Prague, in San Francisco.

Brother President Frank Dlask opened the meeting at 10.15 AM with the pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The minutes of Annual Meeting from December 7, 1997 were read and approved by all present members. Financial statement prepared by Financial Secretary Bro. Paul Burda was read in his absence by Bro Dlask. Money from the sale of Sokol Hall are conservatively invested in several groups.

Bro. Jan Kucera presented the Auditors Report. Sokol books are very well kept and organized. No faults or errors were found.

Also Bro. Jan Kucera presented short overview of activities of our units, the problems and difficulties we had to overcome since the sale of Sokol Hall just one year ago. (See Editor's article in the front of this Vestnik.)

Bro. Edmund Teyrovsky, Chairman of Nominating Committee submitted list of Officers for Sokol San Francisco for the year 1999. There were two motions to change the Nominating List. After seconding the motion, the rest of the nominated officers were elected.

There were 18 members attending this meeting. We expected the higher attendance, especially from the members who live in San Francisco. Probably many member were afraid to drive through financial district in S.F. and the parking were also very difficult.

The meeting was concluded at 12.15 P.M. and after that all members enjoyed tasty lunch prepared by the owner of Cafe Prague.



D U E S

D U E S

D U E S

OH NO !!! YES MEMBERS, IT'S THAT TIME HERE AGAIN

The annual membership is due now. Please don't let us write you some pleading letters to waste your and our time.

Thank you for your promptness.

On Annual Meeting of Sokol San Francisco , held December 13,1998 at Schroeder's Restaurant in S.F. the following Officers for the year 1999 were elected :

NOMINATIONS FOR 1999 SOKOL OFFICERS:

<u>OFFICE:</u>	<u>CANDIDATE:</u>
President	Frank DLASK
First Vice-president	Georgina TEYROVSKY
Second Vice-president	Joe CH R U M A
Secretary	Shirley GANGELHOFF
Financial Secretary	Paul BURDA
Treasurer	Jarmina DLASK
Editors	Jan KUCERA, Paul BURDA
Educational Director	Jan KUCERA
Membership Director	Jeniffer NOVAK
Public Relations Director	Jan KUCERA, Goerge SPANEK
Auditing Committee	Dagmar RUS, Jan KUCERA
Budget & Finance Committee	Edmund TEYROVSKY, Paul BURDA, Jan KUCERA
Reconciliation Committee	Edmund TEYROVSKY, George SPANEK, James FROLIK
Committee for New Members Acquisition	George SPANEK, Jan KUCERA, Edmund TEYROVSKY
Zupa Representative	Paul BURDA, Blanche DUFFEY, Frank DLASK (ex officio), Mary Francis MEIER-alternate Joe CH R U M A
SOKOL Legal Advisors	James FROLIK Attorney, Ondrej KOJNOK Attorney
Entertainment Committee	Georgina TEYROVSKY George SPANEK Jarmla DUSATKO

Všem přátelům, kteří ji znali, oznamujeme, že zemřela pani **K a r e š o v á z**

Hillsborough po delší zakeřné nemoci. Manžele Karešovi byli vždy příznivci Sokola San Francisco a štědře jej podporovali.

Budiž vzdána čest a vzpomínka její světle pamatce !! Panu Karešovi vyslovuje Sokol S.F. vřelou soustrast.

Vzpomínka na ROBERTA ŠTIKU :

Smutnou zprávu o jeho úmrtí jsme se dozvěděli od jeho přátel a kamarádů právě při příležitosti Vyroční schůze Sokola, San Francisco. Zemřel počátkem měsíce prosince m.r. po delší vleklé nemoci. Robert Štika již nebyl po mnoho let členem Sokola, ale přesto jsme mu vzdali poctu a vzpomínku povstáním a minutou ticha, jako našemu dobremu krajanovi a také za práci, kterou před mnoha lety pro nás Sokol vykonal.

Ta zpráva o jeho odchodu na věčnost se mě rovněž dojemně dotkla a mé myšlenky se zatoulaly do doby téměř před 35ti lety. V té době činnost naší jednoty byla na vrcholu. Tenkrát jsme měli hodně různých talentů v naší skupině a tak jsme si mohli dovolit a uspořádat nakladně a vypravne podniky. Takovým jedním talentem byl Robert Štika, který krásně maloval krajiny, ale i portréty. To bylo právě v době, kdy Sověti vypustili úspěšně "Sputnik" a ovšem to byla světová událost o které kde kdo mluvil. To nám, aktivním členům, dalo podnět uspořádat sokolské "Šibřinky" v rázu "Around the World" - "Kolem světa" - později jsme to nazvali "Vzducholodi kolem světa". Robert se ihned pustil do práce a za vydatné pomoci své choti Vlasty, začal malovat na velkých plochách papíru scény z významných světových měst. S malbami jsme pak pokryli stěny Sokolovny na Page Str. v San Franciscu. Byly to vskutku mistrovske malby co on stvořil. Ale Robert nezůstal jen při malování a začal vyrábět i velký model vzducholodi, snad dobrých 10 feetu. Použil k tomu "chicken wire" jako kostru, kterou polepil papírem namočeným v sadře, pak to nastříkal barvou a výsledek byl krásná vzducholod i s osvětlenými kabinami. Pak další mechanici napnuli drátěné lano přes celý sal z balkonu až na jeviště a vzducholod letala po tomto laně. Učinkující v programu jakoby nastupovali do vzducholodě na jevišti. Ta dělala postupně zastávky v Paříži, kde zpíval francouzsky Maurice Chevalier - takto Jirka Španek Jr., nebo v Moskvě, kde Otoman Časlavský - Karel Časlava a skupina jeho Donských Kozáků předváděla své tance. Zastávka v San Franciscu představila divákům skupinu sličných děvčat tančících Can-Can. Vše to mistrně dirigoval a aranžoval br. Mira Marek.

Nejakou dobu později Mira Marek opět režíroval hru "Ve Stínu Lipy". Opět jsme potřebovali jevištní dekoraci k této rymované hře. A tak opět zaskočil Robert Štika. Celou zadní stěnu jeviště ve staré Sokolovně jsme pobili deskami sheetrocku a Robert vytvořil typickou českou krajinu se žirnými lany poli, vlnicím se obilím i žatvou, v podobě obilních snopů a panáku. Co legrace jsme si všichni užili a při tom nadělali mnoho užitečné práce.

Robert zůstal činný v naší jednotě až do doby, kdy byla Sokolovna na Page Str. prodána v r. 1969. Pak se nam jakoby ztratil a členství v Sokole již neobnovil. Snad našel nové přátele - nové zájmy - nové hobby. Velmi nám scházel, ale to jsme přeci jen občas se doslechli, že žije spokojeně někde v San Franciscu.

Nyni však odešel na věčnost z tohoto světa a zanechal svým kamarádům po sobě jen hezke a trvale vzpomínky - vzpomínky kdy jsme pracovali dohromady, kdy jeden druhému pomáhal a oceňoval jakýkoliv přínos jedince ku všeobecnému dobru.

Mily Roberte, my kteří Tě ještě přežili, budeme vděčně na Tebe vzpomínat.

Naše myšlenky jsou nyní s Tvoji chotí Vlastou, se kterou sdílíme upřímnou soustrast !

Jaroslav Seifert: SKLENĚNÝ DŽBAN

Když je nam teprv deset let
či dvanact - to je jak by smet,
buď se k nam krasa zady toči,
protože o nas nestoji,
či máme zamhouřene oči,
anebo oboji.

Ač věděl jsem, že je to hřích
střílel jsem z praku - po vrabcích!
A Kapitane Korkorane
ty víš, že znal jsem střílny prach
a z Jiskry, šelmy milovane,
jsem neměl žádný strach.
Čas leti, je vám čtrnact let
či patnact - to je jak by smet.
Tu dívku škadlival jsem dříve
pro píhy kolem nosanku.
Vždyť měla vlasy zlatě hřive,
jako je pivo ve džbanku.

Potkával jsem ji na schodech
s tím džbankem. Vždycky měla spěch
Nosila pivo tatinkovi.
Prováděl jsem ji ledacos
a hrozila, že doma povi,
jak na ni dělám dlouhy nos.
Co však jsem neznal doposud,
jsem poznal potom. Byl to stud.
A plachost. V přítomnosti dcerek
něčeho jsem se nahlé bal.
Vazanky v zadu u zastěrek
už jsem jim nerozvazoval.

Trapilo mě pak svědomí
I hanba trochu bylo mi
a když jsem spatřil její kštici
I tvař skropenou zlatem píh,
vyhnuť jsem se jí na ulici
a byl jsem před ní v rozpacích.
Jednou však, když mě potkala
vrazil jsem do ní bezmála
na chodbě blízko vodovodu.
Zustala stat. Džban skleněný
postavila si na kraj schodu.
A palec měla od pěny.

Blesklo mi hlavou. A co teď?
A hned tu byla odpověď.
dívka mě chvatně políbila.
Na usta. A pak potichu zvedla
svuj džbanek a odkvapila.
A dala se mi do smichu.

Políbek první, nevinny,
snad trval jen pul vteřiny.
Ty krásna chvílko, purab jejíž
okouzluje mě dotedka!
Dnes vim, že člověk v životě již
nikdy se s tebou nesetka.
Když je nam přes padesat let
či vic - to už je jak by smet,
životy se nam rychle krati
a někdy popadame dech.
Dodnes však ještě vidim stati
skleněny džbanek na schodech.



GYMNASTIC ASSOCIATION "SOKOL"
SAN FRANCISCO, INC.
C/O JAN KUCERA
539 Hillcrest Road
SAN CARLOS, CA. 94070

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