

GYMNASTIC ASSOCIATION SOKOL SAN FRANCISCO
EDUCATIONAL AND PHYSICAL CULTURE ORGANIZATION
P.O. BOX 4006 Menlo Park, CA 94026-4006



MAY, 2002



In Remembrance of a Great Sokol
Jan Kucera



November 9, 1913—February 25, 2002

Sokol San Francisco Officers 2002

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Membership: Jarka Dusatko, George Spanek, Edmund Teyrovsky
Zupa Representative: Paul A Burda, George Spanek, Frank Dlask (ex-officio)
Legal Advisors: James Frolik, (Esq.), Ondrej Kojnok (Esq.)
Entertainment Committee: Georgina Teyrovsky, George Spanek, Jarka Dusatko, Paul A Burda

SOKOL MONTHLY MEETINGS: 2nd Tuesday of every month-7: 30 P.M.
Bayside Corporate Center
433 Airport Blvd., 1st Floor Conference room
Burlingame, CA 94010

ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

It is difficult to evaluate all of the good work and support given to the Unit by the officers and members who are deserving of our thanks. Our SOKOL work is not only for this Unit, but also for the whole Sokol Organization. Above all, we want to promote and continue the Tyrs Sokol ideas and the Masaryk ideal for democracy and co-existence.

George Spanek Sr.
Former President of Sokol San Francisco

“Though Much is Taken, Much Abides.” —Tennyson

We remember Jan today as a husband, father, grandfather, uncle, father-in-law, brother-in-law, Sokol brother, and friend. His full life spanned 88 years and three continents.

These Jan loved: his wife and family, the freedom of democracy, the ideals of the Sokol movement, the fierce competition of team sports, the music of the great composers, and water skiing at Clear Lake up until his 86th year.

From his youth as an athlete in Czechoslovakia to the refugee camps of Germany to re-settlement in Australia and finally a successful life in America, the constant values that graced Jan's life were unfailing courtesy toward others, an unwavering commitment to the highest ethical principals, and a willingness to extend a helping hand to anyone who needed it.

We honor that life by remembering... his pride in the grandchildren who were invariably greeted with a warm smile and a gentle hug and whose soccer games he avidly supported... his generosity in helping to provide a university education for them... the “green thumb” that could make any flower or vegetable thrive in his garden... his willingness during the refugee years to do any honest work, no matter how humble... a love of liberty so strong that he risked his own life and his family's to live in a free society... his knowledge of world events and enthusiasm for debating them... the pleasure he took in even the simplest family gatherings... his joy at reuniting with boyhood friends in a free Czechoslovakia in 1997...

These memories abide.

We are grateful for our connection to a life that was lived with grace, humility, and integrity. And we remember Jan with love.

Chronology of the life of Jan Kucera

Jan Kucera was born in the Czech Republic in the small town of Obristvi outside Prague (Obristvi happens to be the birthplace of the composer Smetana) on November 9, 1913.

He went to the equivalent of junior college, I think, and was trained as an accountant. As a youth, he became active in the nationalistic Sokol movement that is dedicated to patriotism, physical fitness, and brotherhood.

He married his childhood sweetheart Vlasta (they met when she was 11, he 14) November 20, 1937 against her parents' strong opposition because Jan was poor and Catholic.

His sons Jiri and Jan were born in 1940 and 1945. The family story is that World War II was officially declared over practically at the moment young Jan was born, so his birth was accompanied by cheers, fireworks, and anthems. A middle son Pavel died of pneumonia as an infant because all the hospitals were filled with those wounded in the war and when his parents finally got him to a hospital on the outskirts of town it was too late.

When the Communist Party took over Czechoslovakia after the war, Jan and his family escaped in the middle of the night to West Germany in 1949, taking with them only the key to their apartment and one suitcase.

They lived in refugee camps for two years until they were able to migrate to Australia in 1951 to begin a new life. In Australia, Jan began by working in the fruit orchards as an "indentured servant" to the government of Australia to pay for the family's passage there—worked his way up to a responsible job as manager of a manufacturing plant.

He came to the US in 1957—Jan became a US citizen in 1962.

He worked for Pan American Airlines as an internal auditor and for Peters de Lat (a tech company in San Francisco) as the company accountant.

He remained physically active and dedicated to Sokol almost to the end, but declined during the last year of his life and died on February 25, 2002.

-Lee Kucera

Br. Jan Kucera

On February 24, 2002, our Sokol brother Jan Kucera left us. For all the years of his life in California since 1959, brother Kucera was an enthusiastic, active Sokol member. He was everything: the leader, the singer, the president, the dancer in "Ceska Beseda," the writer and editor for the Sokol Vestnik for many years. With his wife Vlasta, Jan was the hearts and the driving force of the San Francisco Sokol Association. Whatever was needed, brother Kucera was there to help. In the early years of the 60's, Sokol put on shows and performances where Br. Kucera and his wife were active in all the segments. In later years he even helped with hilling the little socks with candies and toys for St. Nicholas parties. Each year, Sokol treats children of Sokol members and friends to a St. Nicholas party on or around December 6.

One such Saturday, still on San Mateo Drive, the couple that promised to be our St. Nicholas and Angel just did not show up. The costumes of the bishop and the angel were waiting behind the curtains. We all wondered what to do. Brother Kucera was there with his grandson David. I decided that he would not refuse to help in the emergency. So I asked Br. Kucera, "Would you be our St. Nicholas today?" He responded, "I would with the condition that you, Georgina, will be the Angel! Otherwise not!" And thus it happened that we walked in and made some thirty children happy as St. Nicholas and an Angel. As we walked in my grandson Danny opened his eyes and proclaimed, "This is not an angel, this is my grandmother!" But I responded, "Grandmothers could be angels too, you know!" This silenced Danny and we proceeded with the ceremony. In the European style, usually a devil also appears with the angel. But little children were very frightened of the devil, so we dropped him. The children's party was a success that day and everybody went home happy. And that was thanks to Br. Kucera, who saved the day. And once in my life I was an Angel!

Thanks to Br. Kucera the San Francisco Sokol activities were rich, busy, and thriving. We will all miss him very much!

-Georgina Teyrovsky



With sadness...

Other members have left our Sokol Organization. Who will replace them? ? ?

Otto Prossr died on February 28, 2002. He was a member of the San Francisco Sokol for many years. He was active in gymnastics, dancing and entertaining activities for a long time.

He was born on July 13, 1939 in Hostomice in Czechoslovakia. He escaped from his old homeland under the Communist regime through Yugoslavia with his wife Jaja and two daughters. They immigrated to California the same year. Mr. Prossr first worked as an electrician for two years. Later he worked in the Academy of Science in San Francisco in Golden Gate Park. He suffered from a lung disease. His sudden death was a big loss to his wife of 38 years and to his family.

- G.T.

Olda Gann was born on October 20, 1925, in Brno, Czechoslovakia. He died in October 2002 in Sonoma, CA. In 1948 he left Czechoslovakia (he loved freedom and could not live under communism), and from Germany went to England, then to Australia and finally, in 1958, came to California. He joined Sokol SF and from the mid-sixties was one of the leaders of the entertaining committee. He wrote and directed many big shows and was also a writer, editor and printer of the Sokol Vestnik. The Vestnik had a very high standard, thanks to his uncle who had a printing business and where Olda was a boy and as a young man spent lots of time helping his uncle. His hobbies included photography and writing, and that early experience came handy when he started with the Vestnik. Also I remember he was the one who started and organized the modernization of the Clubovnu in the old Sokol hall on Page St. He was a leader and a good man. I am sure the article will bring back many pleasant memories to a lot of brothers and sisters.



-Lada

In loving memory of longtime Sokol member Sister **Mary Frances Meier**. Born January 13, 1923 in San Mateo, California. Passed away March 11, 2002 in Burlingame, California.

Calendar of Events and Sokol Dues

Calendar of Events:

May 18th 2002—Welcoming May Picnic, Coyote Park, San Mateo.

SOKOL DUES 2002 ARE DUE AGAIN:

Sokol San Francisco thanks everyone for your continuous support. Your membership dues should be sent by check or Money Order to:

Sokol Gymnastics Association Sokol San Francisco
P.O. BOX 4006 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Please enclose the coupon provided below and keep the stub for your records. Your support in 2002 is greatly appreciated. Please disregard if you have already paid your dues. If you still did not pay 2001, please combine both dues together. Your check is your receipt.

Sokol Unit is also very grateful to all for your following tax deductible donations received in 2002:

Memory Veraslavej	\$ 30.00
Jindra Stroleny	50.00
Jarmila Bochenek	25.00
Victor Machacek	10.00
Dagmar Harna	12.00
Dagmar Trebichovska	12.00
Henry Husak	15.00
Frank & M. Miksa	42.00
Vlasta Haviger	12.00
Karel Snajberk	25.00
Bohumil Polata	12.00
Robert Fuksa	12.00
Betty Soldat	12.00
Jiri Zikovsky	12.00
A. Szombathy	12.00
K. Skapa	15.00
G. Smerhovska	25.00
TOTAL	\$333.00

SEND WITH YOUR PAYMENT:

2002 DUES ARE \$25

Membership Dues \$

Donation/Contribution \$

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS Sokol Dues 2002

Date sent:

Check No.

Sokol Family Camp at Dinkey Creek - 2002

Date:
July 7 - 14, 2002

Check-in time: 4:00 p.m. Sunday, July 7, 2002
Check-out time: 12:00 noon Sunday, July 14, 2002

ACCOMMODATIONS AT FAMILY CAMP: Barracks or cabins, hot showers, flush toilets, washing machine and clothes lines. Bring your own sleeping bags, sheets, blankets and pillows, extra bedsheets and clothesline for privacy in barracks, toiletries, laundry detergent and clothes pins. Full range kitchen with gas stove/oven, pots and pans, eating and cooking utensils, microwave,. Large walk-in refrigerator and standing freezer. You must bring your own food (only very limited variety of groceries available at the store), and do your own cooking. Sokol will provide trash can liners, paper towels (in dispenser), dish soap and sponges, dish towels, dish brushes, stove lighter and/or matches, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, morning coffee, and toilet paper. You will need to bring your own paper towels (in rolls) or napkins and charcoal if you plan to BBQ, or any other such items that you may need.

The camp will hold approximately 90 people. **You must pre-register, prepay, and have a confirmed reservation in order to attend.** Sokol members have priority, so be sure to include any family connections to Sokol members if you yourself are not a member. There are 3 cabins available and those will be available on a first-come, first served basis. Preference will be given to families with small children. **Reservations and payment must be received by June 7, 2002** if paying by personal check. We will process reservations up to July 1, 2002 if space is available, but those mailed late must have payment in the form of cashier's check or money order. Those who arrive without pre-registration, will pay double the fee. Make checks payable to the "Pacific District of ASO". Please mail all items to Cheri Riddle, 113 2nd ST., Clovis, CA. 93512. **Direct all questions and inquiries to Cheri Riddle.** If you are unable to attend and inform us before the start of camp, we will issue full refunds. Any payments that needs to be made in camp must be made in cash, or by cashier's check or traveler's checks.

ONE WEEK (7 Nights)		ONE NIGHT	
	per person 3 years and up		per person 3 years and up
Sokol Member	\$55.00		\$15.00
Non-Sokol	\$65.00		\$20.00
<i>Children under 3 years attend free of charge.</i>		<i>"Night is defined as any length of time the camper sleeps at camp after midnight regardless.</i>	

Those who arrive without preregistering, will pay double the fees, weekly or nightly.

HOW TO REGISTER

- 1.) Complete Camp Registration.
- 2.) Have each adult in your group read the enclosed "Camp Rules and Guidelines" and initial and sign the "Release of Liability/Agreement to Comply" form where indicated. Review same with any minors who will be attending the camp with you.
- 3.) Calculate the fees due and make out a check payable to "Pacific District of ASO". A confirmation will be mailed as soon as your check clears the bank.
- 4.) Obtain a completed **Permission to Attend/Release of Liability and Minor Registration Form/Medical Release** form for any minor child you will be chaperoning in camp who is not your legal responsibility. Have that child's parent(s)/guardian(s) sign where indicated. ***A separate form is needed for each minor child with a different parent/guardian(s).***
- 5.) **Return all of the above** - the Registration Form, the Liability Release, the payment, and where applicable, the Minor's Permission to Attend/Registration form to Cheri Riddle.

March 2002

Dear Camper:

Enclosed is the registration package for the 2002 Sokol Family Camp at Dinkey Creek. The date this year is the week of **July 7-14, 2002**. To offset the increase in fees, we have had to increase the cost of registration. Please note the change in fees for Sokol members and non-Sokol members.

To attend, you must pre-register and pre-pay.

Please note that only **complete** registrations will be processed. Incomplete registrations will be held and you will be contacted to supply the missing items. Depending on the interest in the camp, the delay could mean that you may not be able to get the accommodation of your choice or be able to attend camp at all. ***Please do not come to camp without a confirmed reservation as you will be charged double if there is room for you to stay.***

Due to the increased interest in the camp priority will be given to Sokol members and their relatives. The deadline for sending in your registration is June 7, 2002 if you are paying with a personal check. Registrations mailed in later will be accepted but payment must be made in the form of a cashier's check or money order. The final deadline for accepting applications July 1, 2002. **Make checks payable to "Pacific District of ASO"** and mail to Cheri Riddle at the address given below. Direct all inquiries to Cheri Riddle (see contact information below).

REGISTER BY RETURNING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- 1) **A completed registration form.**
- 2) **A signed Release of Liability/Agreement to Comply.**

Please note that each adult camper must sign and initial where indicated before the registration can be processed. You may copy the form and have each adult sign individually on separate sheets if that is more convenient. However, no registration will be processed until all of the adults included on that registration have signed the liability release and agreed to comply with the Camp Rules.

- 3) **Payment IN FULL** in the form of a check (if being mailed prior to June 15) or cashier's check or money order (if being mailed after June 15). Your reservation will be confirmed by mail. *Please note that you must have a confirmed reservation to attend camp.*

- 4) **Permission to Attend/Minor Registration Form** signed and completed by the child's parent or legal guardian, applicable only if you will be bringing with you and chaperoning at camp a minor child whose parent or legal guardian is someone other than yourself (for example, your own child's friend or the child of a friend or relative for whom you will be responsible.) We must have a separate signed and completed form for each minor child attending without his/her own parent/guardian.

Mail Registration/Direct Inquiries To: Cheri Riddle
113 2nd St.
Clovis, Ca. 93612
Email: cheriRsokol@cs.com
(559)299-5807

Thank you for your interest. We are looking forward to seeing you in camp!

CAMP REGISTRATION

Name of Principal Contact for this group _____ Sokol Member _____ yes _____ no
 Currently registered _____ yes _____ no

Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code) _____

Email Address (if available) _____

Phone Number (including area code) _____

If none on this application are Sokol members, is anyone related to a Sokol member? _____

Name of Sokol member _____ Unit _____
 Relationship or association _____

CAMPERS

Include all who will attend camp, including children under 3 who attend at no charge and minors attending with out parent/guardian.

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial)	Full Week (FW) or # of nights	Age	Sokol Member	Fees \$55/FW \$15/night
			Non-Sokol Member	\$65/FW \$20/night
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	\$ _____
Total Enclosed				\$ _____

_____ Cabin requested - preference will be given to families with small children.

_____ Will use own camper/RV as sleeping/living accommodations.

You will be notified on your confirmation regarding cabin/RV space availability

Registration Staff Use Date Received: _____ Complete: Yes No
 Item(s) missing: _____ Date Notified: _____ Received: _____
 Confirmation Mailed: _____ Date: _____ Cabin/RV assigned: _____

Fort Mason Masaryk Dinner Dance

Once again Sokol hosted the annual Masaryk Dinner-Dance March 2, 2002. It was a festive and enjoyable evening for all the guests.

The band of Mr. Joe Dimitrowich played for this event. The musicians had an impressive repertoire of lively dance tunes, which they played throughout the evening. Interspersed were many Czech melodies to the delight of all the Sokol guests.

On the menu that evening there was a choice of a red snapper and New York steak. Both entrees were well prepared and tasty. The Sokol organization paid for the dessert, which was appreciated by all. A total of sixty-two dinners were served.

An interesting and informative speech was given by our newly appointed Director of Education, brother Peter Linhart. He spoke about our first President Masaryk on the occasion of the 152nd anniversary of his birth. In his closing words the speaker quoted Masaryk's statement that "the ideals which give birth to the state are also able to sustain it."

During the interlude the guests enjoyed the performance of two young dancers. Twelve-year old Jason Shmelnik and his partner Olga danced three different selections. They were done with precision and verve, and the audience responded with enthusiastic applause. Our dinner-dance was truly a success, a fellowship enjoyed in pleasant ambience, fine entertainment and joyful music.

-Peter Linhart

Welcoming New Members: Barbara Pivnicka, Honorary Consul of the Slovak Republic, and her husband Richard Pivnicka, Honorary Consul General of the Czech Republic, vowed loyalty to the American Sokol Organization during a ceremony in their home January 27, 2002.



Recipe for Juda's Buns (Jidášky)

30 g. yeast – 1 c. lukewarm milk – 8-10 TB. sugar – 4 c. flour – dash of salt – lemon peel – 1 stick butter – 2-3 egg yolks – 1 egg yolk and butter for brushing the buns

Mix the yeast, milk, and sugar and set aside to rest. In a large bowl, sift the flour and add the salt, lemon peel, butter, and egg yolks. Add the yeast mixture to the flour mixture and let it rise in a warm place. Roll out the dough and cut small circles with an upside-down glass. On top of the circles cut a lattice with a sharp knife and brush them with a whipped egg yolk (you can also prick them several times with a fork). Place them on a greased baking sheet and allow them to rise. Bake in a preheated moderate oven till golden brown. Brush with melted butter and honey when still hot.

News from the Czech Republic

FNM žádá bez výběrového řízení sanaci pozemku, kde má stát hala na MS v ledním hokeji 2004

Výstavba hokejové haly Sazka, ve které se má konat v roce 2004 mistrovství světa v ledním hokeji, se o krok přiblížila. Fond národního majetku žádá totiž bez výběrového řízení sanaci pozemku, kde má hala stát. Smlouvu o odstranění staré ekologické zátěže bývalého areálu CKD Lokomotivka uzavře FNM podle středního rozhodnutí vlády se společností Quonex Real, která je majitelem pozemku. CTK to během středního zasedání kabinetu řekl jeho mluvčí Libor Rouček. Ministři rozhodli o výjimce v rámci projednávání pravidelné zprávy o přípravě šampionátu. Důvodem jejího udělení byla především časová tíseň. Nyní se očekává, že stavba haly by mohla začít letos v červenci. Hokejový šampionát se má za dva roky konat v Praze a v Ostravě. Ostravská hala však zatím nebyla převedena z akciové společnosti Vítkovice na město, proto i její oprava vázne. Stát totiž nemůže investovat do majetku soukromé firmy. Pokud by hala nebyla převedena do konce roku, muselo by se podle ministerstva školství, mládeže a tělovýchovy hledat náhradní řešení. Zájem o pořádání mistrovství mají Pardubice a Plzeň.

Sokolové si připomněli 140. výročí vzniku své organizace

Pietní akt u hrobu předních činovníků českého Sokola na pražských Olšanských hřbitovech v sobotu připomněl 140. výročí založení této tělovýchovné organizace. Účastníci aktu uctili památku nejvýznamnějších zakladatelů sokolské obce, Miroslava Tyrše a Jindřicha Fugnera, krátkou připomínku věnovali i historicky první sokolské cvičitelce Klementě Hanušové a upálenému studentovi Janu Palachovi. Tato oběť komunistické represe patřila totiž podle představitelů obce také mezi sokoly. "Dokonce se dochovala i Palachova fotografie ve slavnostním kroji," zdůraznil jeden z činovníků. Podle starosty České obce sokolské Miloslava Pleskáce na sobotní pietní akt navazuje řada slavností. Během celého roku se uskuteční několik akademií a župních sletů na různých místech republiky. Sokol vznikl z iniciativy předních vlastenců jako první česká tělovýchovná organizace v době politického uvolnění šedesátých let 19. století. Během jeho existence mu byla celkem třikrát pozastavena činnost – za válek v letech 1915 a 1941 a naposledy po roce 1948. Pokus o jeho obnovu v roce 1968 znemožnila normalizace, teprve v lednu 1990 byl Sokol vzkříšen počtvrté. Dnes sdružuje Česká obec sokolská téměř 1100 jednot a 190.000 členů.

2004 hockey championship

The 2004 hockey world championship in the Czech Republic is suffering from politics behind the real estate purchase for new construction of a hockey hall in Prague. As a result, Pardubice or Plzeň, towns that appear to be more flexible with investment into the world hockey events, will probably replace Ostrava, originally named for the championship.

140 year anniversary of the Czech Sokol Organization

There was a celebration and get together on Prague's Olšan cemetery in remembrance of all the founders of the Sokol Organization. Brother Plešák, the chairman of Sokol in Prague, recollected the initiative of all the heroic members who restarted the functions of the Organization four times—after 1915 (World War I), after 1945 (World War II), after Communist oppression in 1968 and finally for the forth time in 1990 when the Cold War ended.

San Francisco Sokol Organization
P.O. BOX 4006
Menlo Park, CA 94026-4006

The Lady

I wonder what she thought
As she stood there, strong and tall.
She couldn't turn away,
She was forced to watch it all.

Did she long to offer comfort
As her country bled?
With her arm forever frozen
High above her head.

She could not shield her eyes
She could not hide her face
She just stared across the water
Keeping Freedom's place.

The smell of smoke and terror
Somehow reduced her size
So small within the harbor
But still we recognized.....

How dignified and beautiful
On a day so many died
I wonder what she thought.
And I know she must have cried.

September 11, 2001