American Sokol
Sokol San Francisco

SOKOL SAN FRANCISCO INC.
GYMNASTIC ASSOCIATION
EDUCATIONAL-SOCIAL AND
CHARITY NON-PROFIT CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION



P.O. Box 5252, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-9998
E-mail: sokolsf@gmail.com



VĚSTNÍK

FALL
2010



PRECIOUS BOOK
OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION IN BAY AREA IN 1939

REED MORE INSIDE

SOKOL OFFICERS FOR YEAR 2010
E-mail: sokolsf@gmail.com

President:	Jara Dusatko
First Vice President:	Georgina Teyrovsky
Second Vice President:	Zdenek Vernak
Secretary:	Zelmira Zivny
Financial Secretary	Paul Burda
Tresurer:	Jarmila Dlask
Treasurer's Assistant:	Milos Zivny
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Women's Director	Eva Folke
Zupa Representatives	J. Dusatko (District VP), P. Burda, F. Dlask, Z. Vernak
Entertainment Committee:	G. Teyrovsky, P. Burda, D. Botcha, J. Dusatko
Film Committee:	Jara Dusatko
Unit Legal Advisor	James Frolik, Jr., Attorney

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A government is a great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else.

Frederic Bastiat, French Economist (1801-1850)

SOKOL UNIT CORNER

Sokol dues and donation 2010 :

We are very thankful for your thoughtful contribution and support to American Sokol San Francisco Unit. Up to date, we acknowledge donations from attendees of films sessions $212.00 and $985.96 of individual donations.

In memory of E.Teyrovsky-L. Zrzavy $40; V.&J. Cambus $40.

H. Srcdl $20; G.Teyrovsky $20; F.Miksa $50; P. Burda $38.96; K&M. Snajberk $60; H.Husak $50; V. Vernak $2; B. Duffey $25; V. Machacek $30, J. Kucera $5, J.Kemr $5, CSA Fratelnal Life $100.
American Sokol is a Non-profit Organization; your donation is tax deductible. Keep your bank check as your receipt. Membership dues are not deductible. They are supporting Headquarters ASO in Chicago paying whole American Sokol actions across US.

Paul A Burda, Sokol Financial Secretary

Brothers and Sisters:
Unit has actively registred 40 women and 39 men up to date. All registered members had dues 2010 paid.

Please note new Sokol Unit address:

Sokol Gymnastics Association
Sokol San Francisco, P.O. Box 5252, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-9998
E-mail: sokolsf@gmail.com

Payment Dues 2011

SEND WITH YOUR PAYMENT: KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS:
2011 Dues are $35; late fee $5 after 2-28-11
Membership Dues sent $.....Sokol San Francisco Dues 2011
New members add $5 processing fee to American Sokol
Headquarters in Brookfield, Illinois
Donation/Contribution.....
Name.....
Sent amount:.....Date:.....Check No:.....
Address:.....
City:.....State:.....Zip:.....

October 23, Saturday	Lunch Remembering October 28)	Dino's,	Castro Valley
November 5, Friday	Czech Movie Series (see page 4)	Stanford University	Palo Alto
December 3, Friday	Czech Movie Series (see page 4)	Stanford University	Palo Alto
December 4 Saturday Morning	Annual Meeting	20121 Santa Maria Ave	Castro Valley
December 4 Saturday Afternoon	St. Mikulas Party	20121 Santa Maria Ave	Castro Valley
December 29 Wednesday	End of Year Dinner and Dance	Tarragon Restaurant	Sunnyvale

Stanford Czech Film Series, 2010-2011

Nov. 5th: *Kdyby tisíc klarinetů / If a Thousand Clarinets* 1964; dir. Ján Roháč, and Vladimír Svitáček; 130 min.	**Dec. 3rd:** *Protektor / Protector* 2009; dir. Marek Najbrt; 102 min.	**Jan. 7th:** *Vlčí jáma / The Wolf Trap* 1957; dir. Jiří Weiss; 90 min.
Feb. 4th: *Babí léto / Autumn Spring* 2001; dir. Vladimír Michálek; 95 min.	**Mar. 4th:** *Vesničko má středisková / My Sweet Little Village* 1987; dir. Jiří Menzel; 98 min.	**May 6th:** *Líbáš jako Bůh / You Kiss Like a God* 2008; dir. Marie Poledňaková; 116 min.

Introduction and Commentary by **Jara Dusatko**, Lecturer in Czech, Stanford Special Language Program
All films shown **on Fridays** with English subtitles and begin **at 7:00 pm**
All screenings take place **at Stanford University in the Language Corner, Building 260** (Pigott Hall). **Room 113**

ooOOoo

September 11, 2010: Picnic under the trees

Sokol picnic is already traditional gathering of our Sokol members and their friends of all ages.
30 participants gathered around barbecue pit full of goodies, meats and veggies. Table were full of sweets, traditional Czech baking's like always. Unfortunately we missed our Master fire taker Br. Zdenek Vernak who flue to Czech Republic, lonely for mushrooms for tradition Christmas dish "Kuba". I noticed that our fire needed yours professional touch, no offence to Br. Zivny and Cuda. We are all thankful for their work. We welcomed our past President Sister Blanche Duffey between us, lady still in good spirit and physical shape.
Persistence of Sister Georgina kept us singing. For one hour long Br. Daniel Botcha was squeezing his accordion and directed our disorganized voices though Czech national songs, organized into very well prepared bided songbook. No wonder our group is called by around driving Lake Chabot Ranges as the "singing party". Sister Jara Dusatko was missing to help. Even not perfect, we all were happy. Time vent fast, enjoying our self, chatting, eating and singing. Many healthy returns

Nazdar, Pavel Burda



The Story of a Book

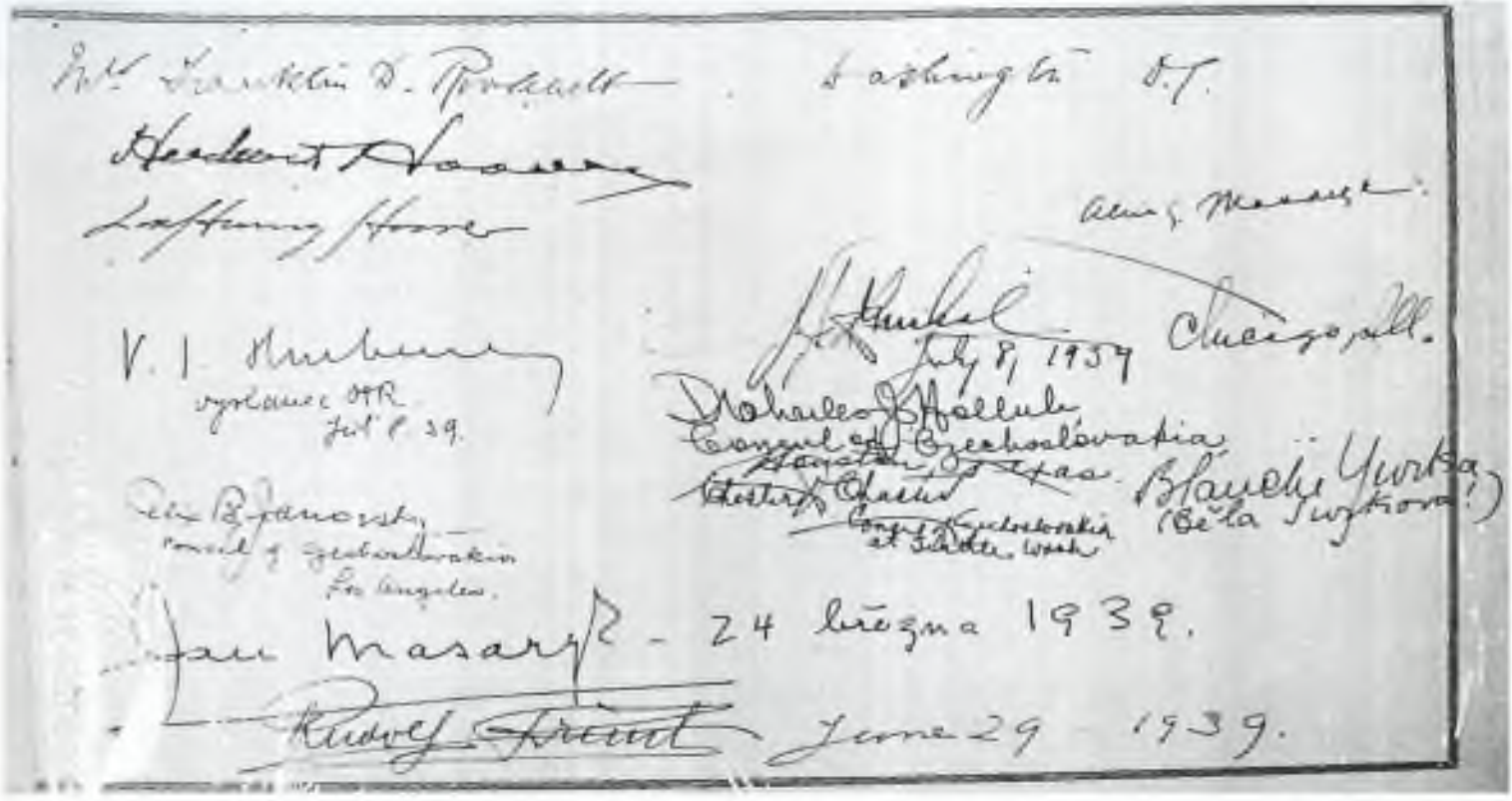
For years, there were rumors circling among our Sokol Brothers and Sisters regarding a book, allegedly a book of the Sokol San Francisco beginnings and history. Of course, we would love to have such a book. Our unit is in existence for more than one hundred years and we were not even sure when has that anniversary passed and we did not celebrate it.

But finally, some positive things started happening. First, in November 2008, a former Sokol member and a granddaughter of Brother Anthony George Kohoutek, a very active Sokol member in his time and a long time ago vice president of the Pacific District, contacted us. She, Ms. Judy Bouska Bonfilio, has located two brochures of the Sokol San Francisco fifty years anniversary celebration held in July 1954. Ms. Bonfilio lives out of the Bay Area now and she is not an active Sokol member. In the brochures she promptly mailed us, we have got all the facts and names of the people who put their brains and hands together back at the beginning of the last century to create the Sokol San Francisco.

We now know with certainty that our Sokol was founded in August 1904 and the board of officers is ready to organize a 110 year anniversary once the time comes. Could the big book, the one which was supposed to have even more information, help us to get a more detailed picture of the Sokol past? That book is at the Sokol headquarters in Chicago now. It was sent there by Sister Blanche Duffey, our former President, after our Sokol Hall in San Mateo was sold.

To learn more, Sister Jara Dusatko and I went to visit Sister Blanche to discuss the subject. Sister Duffey might have some problem with her eyes, but her brain and memory serve her excellently and age is not a problem for her. She is still the tall and sharp woman who used to represent our Unit at national competitions. And she remembers the book very well. It has nothing to do with our Sokol history, she assured us, but it is significant in much broader view. According to Sister Duffey, that book holds signatures of the visitors of the Czechoslovak Exposition at the World Fair in San Francisco in the year of 1939.

It just happened that I was visiting my family in Chicago in June and could not stop thinking about that book. Is it really exactly what Sister Blanche said. And how does it look like, whose signatures are there? At the end, I just went to see it. We came, with my cousin and his wife, to the Sokol headquarters, a small house in Brookfield



Page one of the Book with signatures of F.D. Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, Jan Masaryk and others.

where Sisters Jean Hruby and Annette Schwabovski were awaiting us. Sister Jean is a member of the Sokol Executive Board for public relations and also the ASO office manager. Sister Annette is a librarian and Archives and Museum curator. It was a warm welcoming in mixed English, Czech and Slovak languages.

My cousin is Slovak and Jean wanted to prove that she still can speak some Czech. We settled for English then and I was admiring the small exhibition of pictures, posters and flags around the rooms. Sister Annette brought a big box and a pair of white cotton gloves for me and then I could see it and touch it, the beautiful leather-bound book called **The Golden Book of Czecho-Slovak Exhibit at the Golden Gate International Exposition, Treasure Island on San Francisco Bay, February 18 to December 2, 1939.**

No, this book does not say anything about the Sokol San Francisco. It presents signatures of people who came and recognized the country which has lost a big part of its territory to the Nazis before the Exposition began and which was occupied and non-existent not even a month after the the Exposition opened. The Nazi Army flooded Czechoslovakia on March 15, 1939 and the Potectorat Bohmen and Mahren was declared a new country. That was a terrible year, I remember my parents talking about the feeling that the world they knew and lived in just ceased to exist.

And yet here, at the Pacific coast, Czechoslovakia still presented itself and the signatures are proving that America did not consider that small far away country dead. The first page and signatures: Franklin D. Roosevelt, followed by Herbert Hoover, Jan Masaryk, Rudolf Friml, and then pages and pages of names. It was very moving, to see and read it.

The book is in perfect shape, well protected and kept in Sokol archive. It cannot belong to Sokol San Francisco, this is a national treasure and a valuable one, too.

So I did not find any details of our Unit's history. Instead, I had the opportunity to see a wonderful piece of history of my native country and to meet people who are taking good care of it.

The author and the Sokol San Francisco thanks for cooperation to Brother Jerry Milan from Sokol Fort Worth and to Sisters Annette Schwabowski and Jean Hruby.

Sister Zivny was not the only one who visited the Sokol headquarters to see the book. Brother Walter Strach went to Brookfield, too, and sent us a nice picture. Thank you, Walter.

Picture on the front page: Roman Hudec

Zelmira Zivny

ooOOoo


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History of the Sokol San Francisco

The story as told by Georgina Teyrovsky.
(Continue from Spring Vestnik)

Those times Sokol San Francisco also organized masquerade ball. The other day we discovered some old movies in order to show how our daughters, then small, looked like in years 1959-62. And suddenly there paraded in front of our eyes a couple of clowns, harlequins, ghosts, magicians, cats, and others. Georgina and Edmund paraded as Queen Libushe and "Praotec Czech" (Great Grandfather Czech). I remember that Sokol members complained then that masquerade balls were not as well attended as regular balls, but in the movie were looking as great success!

I like to remember little sketches we acted with out countrywomen. Georgina Smerhovska, as "Julia goes to the photographer!" we rehearsed it for quite a while before we actually acted it successfully.

When he arrived from Australia the Czech countrymen with his family br. Miroslav Marek, became our stage leader. He was tall and handsome, very outspoken and full of energy. Right away he became Sokol stage director. He called us, "curamandy" (the word had no meaning in Czech and is untransferable in English, but somehow it suggested something naughty!) The title we never heard before, but the new Czech came to rehearsals in droves and sang, danced and rehearsed in stage acting with enthusiasm.

I remember acting on the Sokol stage in a skit in verse. I was a princess with the horse and Edmund was a prince defending me against the dangerous dragon. All words were in rhymes and in Czech (Na vysoké to věži princezna smutná tam leží). Two strong members were dressed up as my horse. I remember sitting next to the horse, on the stage, and recited my verses when br. Caslava, who took at that time more alcohol, entered the stage as the dragon-was threatening "my prince" that he would knock down my horse "for excitement!"

Edmund, my prince, again threatened to knock him down on the stage floor before he would get his chance! That conversation was only on the stage while I was reciting my lines-out of reach of ears of the audience. The dragon abandoned his dangerous intentions.

We dance "Česká Beseda" (Czech Beseda) for many years at all. March and October celebrations. March 7 was the anniversary of the birth of Czechoslovakian beloved president Thomas Garigue Masaryk. October celebrations were commemorating October 28, 1918 the day of proclamation of the independence from the Austrian-Hungarian Empire, when our lands were names Bohemia and Moravia, where we were held by might and tricks for 300 years (since 1620 at the battle on Bílá Hora-(white Mountain) in submission.

Slovakian lands were held in Hungarian grip of power for one thousand years. So the independence was very meaningful to us Czech and Slovaks. We are celebrating these important dates by Sokol till today.

Throughout the years our groups of Beseda dancers in square dancing style with 8 dancers became well established. Besides Georgina and Edmund, Jindra Strolena and her husband, Jan and Vlasta Kucera and Milan and Joan Kemr and br. Lorenz and his English wife. I also remember Lada Zrzavy and his wife.

We danced in full authentic hand embroidered Czech costumes. Mostly Kyjovsky and Pieštianský (Slovak) costumes because of their colorful beauty. Our Czechoslovakian team participated in all international festivals in San Francisco, Oakland, or wherever in the Bay Area it was held. Or wherever we were invited as their entertainment. The music played by a band was assembled from 12 national songs and 12 country dancers. We had it on tapes and we carried it with us. Sometimes we received monetary reward for our performances, which we donated to Sokol San Francisco Association. That went on for some 30 years. The rest of dancing man had costumes created in California in Czech country style. We called them Domažlický which indicated that we put them together in this vicinity (like "home cooked") Sometimes we just met at the start and danced without rehearsals and without a mistake. Of course some unforgettable moments happened at those dances.

Like in California Hall on Russian Hill in San Francisco we danced to retired crowds of some 600 spectators. Edmund was my partner. While we girls all had authentic costumes, only Mila Kovar had real Kyjovsky (Moravian) costume. I had on me my very colorful Slovakian Pieštianský costume (embroidered in red-orange colors). At one point Edmund and I, as dancing partners, clapped our hands so powerfully together and then we dashed in opposite directions to dance each with neighboring partners.

At that second something happened that is hard to believe. As Edmund swung his hand past my vest his sleeve button hooked on my vest cheat hook and since he dashed energetically in opposite direction, his hand ripped my vest hooks and swung my gathered blouse completely open. It was full size blouse held tight to the body by a vest. The hooks were made of lead which was soft and therefore all pliable. I tried to close the vest while flying and dancing vigorously to the music with my partners.
Somehow while trying to save the situation I grabbed the ribbons from my wreath on my head and the wreath started to move and threatened to fall down. While changing hands, with partners I felt terrible. So not forget that 600 pairs of eyes were glued on us in a huge arena. I did not want to expose myself and neither my bra nor my cheat to all those eyes. I danced in agony -and somehow -I made it to the end. But I'll tell you, I will never forget that day!

At another Sokol Celebration in Page Street Sokolovna such accident happened. At that time our Czech Beseda team did studied and was good at Czechoslovakian Beseda. They were impressive 12 dances with marvelous section music. It had one dance for each land. Czechoslovakia: Czechy, Moravia, Salezia. Slovakia, and Rhutenia (Podkarp. Rus). We were all of us eight dancers ready in full beautiful folkloric costumes when the curtains opened and flood lights illuminated the scene. Then the first tunes of music sounded, but the sounds were not right! We all froze on the stage and sure enough next tunes were the wrong ones. Someone yelled "close the curtain –it's the wrong music!" I remember I was thinking that I would have rather received ten smacks on my face than to go through such embarrassment (and I remember it decades later).

The cause was the wrong tape being taken by Lada. His home was 20 minutes away by car from Sokolovna. And the organizers decided, while he would drive home for the right tape they would insert next stage number of folkloric songs on stage to be sung by members in Czech costumes. The problem was that not all the singers had authentic Czech costumes. They borrowed them from the dancers. It meant those costumes has to be taken from dancers and put on singers. After their singing numbers that situation well as the spectators, but we did not forget it and neither of us would want to relive through a similar situation!

Another Beseda dancing which I would not forget was planned at the biggest San Francisco Synagogue. Their leader only gave us address, day and time and said that they do not have space where to change to our Czech costumes, so he said "Come already dresses up for the dance at 7 p.m." It was an unusual place for dancing, so I said to br. Lorenz, who was our organizer. "Perhaps it will be held in a recreation space under the Synagogue." And br. Lorenz answered, "Perhaps."

So we arrived from our homes to the Synagogue right at 7 p.m. (since looking for a new location took us something). The organizers already were waiting for us at the entrance and took us directly to the main large Synagogue temple. They kept open seats for us. I only saw a very small space in the front of us, which could be called a "stage." Yet that was where eight of us had to dance to our vigorous music.

We did not know what we were celebrating and I accompanied our dancing with usual hollering of joy like "yuchoo." Only that time Milo Kovar, my opposite partner kept giving me very ugly looks and looked upset. I thought that he must have some sort of stomach ache to be so depressed. After our beseda dance there were some speeches, sounding very loud over the loudspeaker, but with some detonation and sound disturbances, therefore I was unable to understand what was said.

After the even was over, we were all invited to the recreation hall in the basement for buffet refreshments. We had friendly chat with the organizers, when I asked "what were we actually celebrating?" the young Rabbi near me answered, "Actually it was not a celebration but a commemoration ceremony for our very beloved leader who dies one year ago."

"For goodness sake, why did you invite us, the beseda dancers, to dance at such a serious event?" I responded.

Because our leader wanted us to celebrate his life and achievements instead of mourning his departure. He saw you dancing at International Festival and said that your 'beseda' was the best and liked it most of all."

"Well, I tried to let you know, that joyful hollering with 'yachoo' was not appropriate, but in vain." added Milo Kovar. And that was the only one occasion when we were invited to dance at the Synagogue!

(It will continue in our Winter Vestnik)

STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY

Sokol San Francisco Unit

I am interested in being a candidate to serve on The Board of Officers for the year 2011-12.

NAME: _____

Activity interest: _____

Mailing address: _____

Daytime phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Following statement to Organization explain my interest area I can serve if elected during an Annual meeting 2010:

Sokol member since: _____

Current Occupation: _____
Educational background: _____

Community clubs and other activities and Organizations: _____

My goals and ideas I am planning to implement with Sokol are as follows:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Candidates' names and their statements will be published in the voting materials that will accompany the ballots in the upcoming election at Annual meeting 2010.

Telephone numbers and E-mail will not be published. Candidates' names will appear on official Ballot of the election. Law requires Permanent Legal residency in The USA (citizenships or green card).

P. S. According to CA laws and Sokol By-Laws as Non-profit Organization Sokol Unit must provide this information statement to all members.

If interested, please send or E-mail Statement of Candidacy to Sokol San Francisco Inc., Gymnastics Ass. P.O. Box 5252, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-9998 by November 16, 2010 at the latest.

E-mail: sokols@gmail.com

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

ASO registration fee is $5.
Membership fee is $35 per year, should be paid on the end of each year for the next year.

The Pledge of Allegiance:
"I pledge allegiance to the Flag
Of the United States of America
And to the Republic for which it stands.
One nation under God, indivisible,
With liberty and justice for all."

SOKOL SAN FRANCISCO INC.
GYMNASTIC ASSOCIATION
EDUCATIONAL-SOCIAL AND
CHARITY NON-PROFIT CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

P.O. Box 5252, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-9998
E-mail: sokolsf@gmail.com

NAME:_____ DATE:_____

Address:_____ City:_____ State:____ Zip:_____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2:_____

E-Mail:_____

Date of Birth: :____/_____/_____ Place of Birth:_____

US Citizen: Yes ☐ No ☐ If No, legal resident? Yes ☐ No ☐

Marital Status : Married ☐ Single: ☐ Other: ☐

Please, list other clubs, organizations to which you belong_____

_____

Sponsor:_____

MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE:

I,_____(new members name) as a condition of membership in Sokol Unit of San Francisco Inc. in San Francisco CA, agree to abide by the Bylaws of the American Sokol of the Pacific District and this Unit, Sokol San Francisco.I promise that in my speech and actions I will endeavor to strengthen The Sokol Organization. Further, when participating in Sokol activities, I will conduct myself in manner which honors Sokol goals.

STATEMENT: I affirm that I am loyal to the government of the United States of America and that I am not a member of any subversive organization. If admitted to membership of the American Sokol, I promise to be governed by the by-laws in all my activities on behalf of said organization. I represent that to the best of my knowledge and belief the answers to the statements contained in this application are full, complete and correctly recorded. I understand that this application shall be the basis for and a part of any insurance contract issued.

New member signature:_____

AMERICAN SOKOL CORNER

Important message regarding 2011 Membership Dues

September 15, 2010

Unit President, Financial Secretary, Membership Chairman and National Executive Board Member:

The Convention voted to increase the annual membership dues **(to $35),** the convention dues **(to $5),** youth membership **(to $10)** and to change from paying membership dues on a **quarterly** basis to an **annual** basis **beginning with calendar year 2011.** The procedure for the 3rd & 4th quarter of 2010 is outlined below. Assistance will be provided as necessary. (There will be some special first year accommodation for collecting dues for the parents of the participants.)

This packet is being sent to you to assist you in complying with the new by-laws. (Please provide an email address to receive these forms electronically.) in it you will find the following:

Quarterly Membership Report Form (to be used for the **3rd & 4th quarter of 2010 ONLY.** Starting in the first quarter of 2011, only an annual form will be used to remit dues payments).

- Please make special note that this form. has the new **$8.75** per member quarterly fee that we voted on at the Convention in addition to the **$5.00** per member for convention dues.

- **Structure and timeline** as to the type, amounts and due dates for these reports and payments.

The monthly and annual reporting forms will be sent as soon as they are finalized. We want to make sure that the forms and procedures are correct before they are distributed but here is an *overview* of how this process will work:

- **Annual Membership Report Form** (to submit dues payments and report all members of your unit as of March 31, 2011). In February, an invoice will be sent from the National Office indicating your 2011 membership dues based on the members we have on file for you at December 31, 2010 as submitted with your 4th Quarter report. On the annual report form, you will need to supply us with any additions or corrections at that time. The form, the annual dues and convention dues will be due on April 30, 2011.
  - Please make special note that this form will have the new **$35.00** per member annual fee (for the next **4** years) that was voted on at the Convention in addition to the **$5.00** per member fee for convention dues and **$5.00** new member fee.
- **Monthly Membership Report Form** (to submit information for new, terminated, resigned or deceased members each month as required and to also submit name and/or address changes)
  - Dues for all members who join after the first quarter shall be on a pro-rated basis and must be submitted to the American Sokol at the NEXT annual reporting period in addition to the annual dues for that member for the upcoming year. (The details for this are forthcoming.)
  - Per the by-laws, each Unit shall report to the American Sokol all new members within one month of acceptance. Resigned, terminated and deceased members shall be reported at the conclusion of the specified grace period.

If you have questions, please let us know.

Nazdar,, Barbara Vondra, ASO Financial Secretary

INFORMATION CORNER

Information



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E-mail: losangeles@embassy.mzv.cz

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201 Filbert St., San Francisco, CA 94133 Phone: 415.394.0152
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Honorable Consul General for Czech Republic Richard Pivnicka
Email: pivnicka@earthlink.net

CONSULATE GENERAL OF SLOVAK REPUBLIK
www.slovakembassy-us.org
Honorable Consul for Slovak Republic Barbara Pivnicka
Mobil phone: 650.996.7473 , Phone: 925.457.8380, Fax: 866.224.1941
Email: bpivnicka@earthlink.net

NEW PLACE FOR MEETINGS:
Sokol Committee Meeting is every second Tuesday, every month at 7:15 PM in Baywood Court, 21966 Dolores St. # 241, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Sokol & Czech related WEB Pages:

http://www.csplanet.com/
http://www.columbia.edu/~js322/czech.html
http://www.sokol-cos.cz/cos/testweb.nsf
http://www.american-sokol.org/
http://www.sokolunderground.com/
http://www.slovakcatholicsokol.org/who.htm
http://www.csuzkrajane.cz/
http://archiv.radio.cz/krajani/spolky/
http://www-scf.usc.edu/~tlrobins/taborinda/

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Věstník is published by Sokol San Francisco, Four isues per Year. Your typed contributions send to our unit or editor's e-mails, or by mail.

Věstník Schedule:
Deadline for contributions WINTER December 31 with a publication date January 31
Deadline for contributions SPRING February 28 with a publication date March 31
Deadline for contributions SUMMER May 31 with a publication date June 30
Deadline for contributions FALL September 30 with a publication date October 31

From the Gallery of Successful Members of San Francisco Sokol.

With its ninety members, Sokol San Francisco is one of the average size units of American Sokol Organization - a very important organization for educational and physical activity of its members. But our unit is unique in having the highest percentage of members still fluent in Czech or Slovak language. We are hardly a front page item, no reporter ever knocked on our door requesting an interview. No Congressman ever solicited our collective opinion on public matters. And yet - there are people on our membership roster who do deserve public attention, for they significantly contributed to the betterment of our society.

Their deeds are known to just a few and we are still searching for an encyclopedic able and willing to chronicle life's stories and accomplishments of our best.
As immigrants, we have a double identity and a degree of split loyalty between our native country and our new one, where we found an opportunity to "pursue happiness". Our old country gave us the mother's language and molded our characters during the forming years of our youth. Then, politically under the control of dictatorial and hateful ideology limiting our basic freedoms, a great number of nonconformists were forced to leave the country, many times under dramatic circumstances, to seek a new life in the free world. But "The old love never rusts" and since the "Velvet revolution" in 1989 many dormant ties between families and friends, living on the opposite sides of the former "Iron Curtain" have been restored.
Dr. Ing. Desider Slavoj and his wife have been Sokol members longer than I can remember. Actually, at 96, he's been everything longer than anyone can remember! At his age bright mind and agile body are to be admired. (He just passed the driving test and DMV extended his license until 2015 when he'll be 101!) His life story reads like a script of an adventure movie.
Born in Spisska Nova Ves, there he completed High School he graduated in Engineering at the Czech Technical University in Prague, postgraduate study of Arial Photogrammetry, completed in Zurich, Switzerland. After a special training he was awarded Doctorate in Engineering at the Tech. Univ. in Vienna, Austria. Then he decided not to return to the Communist Czechoslovakia, where there was no chance for him to continue running his private Engineering Office in Piestany, Slovakia. His wife, Vera, managed to follow him shortly, after an adventurous journey across the heavily guarded borders. Together they immigrated to Australia where Eugene quickly proved his mantle and the official recognition soon followed. In March 1954, when he was employed as City engineer, he received an invitation from the visiting Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburg to be present at the Royal Music Festival. Then in October of the same year the local paper published a highly complementary article titled: "City Engineer is a Man of Wide Experience". After 1 1/2 years they left Port Pirie and Desider took position as a lecturer in Photogrammetry at the University of Melbourne.
During his first term of his teaching Slavojs were surprised by a letter from US Consul informing them that, after a five year wait, they got the immigration visa. A fast decision put them on a ship and after a four week of rough sailing they landed in San Francisco.
In 1959 Eugene started teaching at the City College of San Francisco full time and part time at the Universities in Honolulu, Berkley and Fresno. Steady income from a lot of overtime work and frugal life allowed Slavojs to accumulate a reasonably decent wealth for a comfortable retirement. Half a century of absence failed to sever Eugene's bond to his native Spis District of Slovakia, so he decided to build a Basic Art School in Smizany to pay back the cost of the education he received there.Eugene's investment of over $ 360,000 and an inspired selection of an excellent Ing. Architect Dusan Burak's architectural firm Atrium resulted in a significant and positive change in the cultural life of Smizany. The Basic Art School (ZVS) was open on Br. Slavoj's ninetieth birthday, 22nd of June, 2004.

The same year, Slovak Architectural Society awarded the building design the country's highest architectural award - Dusan Jurkovic Price.

The US Ambassador, the Honorable Rodolphe M. Vallee, visited the school later and, in his letter to Bro. Desider, he states: "As Ambassador, one of my primary goals here is to expand connections between Slovaks and Americans. Through you gift, you made an enormous contribution towards building lasting ties for generations to come."

What warms Eugene's heart more than official praise, and rewards, is the realization that the kids will have a rare opportunity to develop their talents in music, dance, visuals and multi-media. The Art School is now a living monument to Brother Slavoj's altruism. It will live in the minds of young, budding artists, who can now develop their talents under the leadership of highly qualified teachers, in a pleasing, dignified evironment. Originally planned for 200 students, the school had to be expanded to accommodate 580 young art lovers from all corners of Slovakia and other countries. Concerts, plays, international ompetitions, folklore shows now enrich the cultural life of Smizany, its reputation and influence reaches far beyond the local turf.

Ing. Dusan Burak donated a valuable book to the Town of Smižany - The World Atlas of Architecture of Twenty-First Century during celebrations of the fifth anniversary of school's opening. 800 pages with 4,600 photos, we are presented with more than thousand architectural items that were selected from a field of 10,000 works built in the last nine years, by the world's best architects. On page 552 you'll find our school, the only one representing Slovakia. What a success story! And a sliver of all the glory falls on our San Francisco Unit, proud to have Brother Desider as a member.

I believe I speak for all our Brothers& Sisters when I wish Desider long years of happy life so he can follow the progress of his school and keep supporting its programs financially. If you want to learn more,
you should read his book "Našinec vo svetě", given as a premium to anyone who contributes to the Basic Art School.

Nazdar, Zdeněk Vrňák.





CSA Fraternal Life has awarded a donation of $100 for the Sokol San Francisco Czech Film Series.

CSA Fraternal Life
In New York Czechoslovak Society of America

August 20, 2010

Sokol San Francisco
Czech Film Series
1700 Bothelho Drive, #409
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the Officers, Directors, and members of CSA Fraternal Life, I am pleased to send the enclosed check for $100.00 as a donation from CSA's 39th Quadrennial convention, held in Naperville, Illinois earlier this month.

CSA has always supported all efforts to perpetuate Czech, Slovak, and Moravian culture and heritage through language classes, gymnastics, music, dance, and educational activities all over the country, and we appreciate everything you do toward those ends. It is up to all of us to maintain that cultural knowledge for the current generations as well as those that will follow. We know this money will be put to good use.

With kindest regards and best wishes for a successful future, I remain,

Fraternally,

Helen E. Gaydusek

Helen E. Gaydusek
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
CSA Fraternal Life

P.O. Box 3039, Oak Brook, Illinois 60522-3039 Phone (630) 472-0500 or (800) 543-3272

2010 CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
CALIFORNIA CZECH AND SLOVAK CLUB
Saturday, November 20, 2010Castro Valley Community Center
18998 Lake Chabot Rd.Castro Valley, CA
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.Lunch served at noon

I've arranged with Jerry Sedivy to do the catering and we'll have our typical Czech and Slovak lunch of salad, roast pork, sauerkraut, dumplings, apple strudel and coffee. We will also have a vegetarian lunch available. I am putting a price of $l4.00 per meal.
Let's have the children who come – sing as a group. – I'd like to suggest that the children practice at least 3 Christmas songs – Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Jingle Bells and Silent Night.

Should you have any questions, please contact me – phone (209)368-1675 or e-mail lmwick@softcom.net.
Thank you and looking forward to seeing you all on November 20.
If interested in attending the luncheon please detach and send me the following
++
Name_____ e-mail_____

_____pork lunches @ $14.00 each = _____
_____ vegetarian lunches at $14.00 each = _____

Names of family/friends attending so I can make up name tags. If you have small children, you may want to order one lunch to split between them.
Please make checks payable to me: **Lillian Wick, 2600 Alder Glen Drive, Lodi CA 95242**

I need a headcount by November 13, Sincerely, Lillian

ooOOoo

Difference between: http and https

I tried this on my Bank account. It was http:// on their intro page but as soon as I went to the sign in page it went to https://. I knew about the little lock on the right hand side but not this. The difference between http and https maybe you already knew this. But, I thought it was important enough to send it even if you already know.
FIRST, MANY PEOPLE ARE UNAWARE OF the main difference between http:// and https:// <https:///>; .
It's all about keeping you secure - HTTP stands for Hyper Text Transport Protocol. The S (big surprise) stands for "Secure". If you visit a website or webpage, and look at the address in the web browser, it will likely begin with the following: http://./ This means that the website is talking to your browser using the regular 'unsecure' language. In other words, it is possible for someone to "eavesdrop" on your computer's conversation with the website. If you fill out a form on the website, someone might see the information you send to that site.
This is why you never ever enter your credit card number (or other private information) in an http website! But if the web address begins with https:// that basically means your computer is talking to the website in a secure code that no one can eavesdrop on. You understand why this is so important, right?
If a website ever asks you to enter your credit card information, you should automatically look to see if the web address begins with https://If it doesn't, there's no way you're going to enter sensitive information like a credit card number. PASS IT ON (You may save someone a lot of grief).