

American
Sokol
Sokol Los Angeles

SOKOL NOTES

* Winter 2016 * Published February 2016 by American Sokol Los Angeles, 4817 Neblina Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008*

Editor's Notes

Happy New Year 2016 to Members and Friends of Sokol Los Angeles!

Šťastný a zdravé Nový Rok!



As I say goodbye to a difficult year, it is time to look forward to a new and exciting 2016. In addition to the loss of Sokol members, the year 2015 offered many challenges in my personal life, leaving me little time to devote to my commitments to Sokol Los Angeles and this publication. It has been a year since the loss of my dear husband Marv and I am finally feeling a new energy that allows me to move forward and accept new and interesting challenges. After a very difficult move, I am settling into my new home in Carlsbad, CA -- still surrounded by yet unpacked boxes. I am pleased with my new neighborhood and am happy to be closer to my family.

In this edition of Sokol Notes there will be "catch-up" articles, which include obituaries for those eight (8) Sokol Los Angeles members lost in 2014 and 2015. The year 2016 will be another busy year for Sokol Los Angeles, so please be sure to save the calendar included on the last page so you don't miss out on any events.

I hope you enjoy this issue, and please let me know if there is anything you would like to see in future issues. Remember, this newsletter is about you and for you. Please continue to send your stories, news items and photos to GEMILIL@aol.com to share with your Sokol friends and family.

NAZDAR!

Sister Lillian Roter, Editor

Letters to the Editor: e-mail: GEMILIL@AOL.COM
U.S Mail 4817 Neblina Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008-3725

* * * * *

President's Message



Dear Members and Friends,

First and foremost, I thank all volunteers who have stepped up to support our organization. To quote William Arthur Ward (1921—1994) inspirational writer, "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." I thank all those members who attend monthly meetings, those members who come early and help set up, and those members who help with the food and coffee service. I thank Natalie Zelenka for thoughtfulness in sending cards and special greetings to members unable to attend meetings.

The year 2016 should be an exciting year as we begin planning for the upcoming ASO slet in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, which is scheduled for June 22-24, 2017. We will hopefully have Pacific District representation in the senior number as we did in 2009.

In addition to participation in the slet, we are considering including a tour of the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML) and surrounding community for Sokol L. A. members. The Museum is preparing a special exhibit honoring Sokol, "Twists and Turns: The Story of Sokol", to be displayed February thru July 2017.

Sokol Los Angeles is also in preliminary planning stages for the Prague Slet 2018, and we are looking forward to once again visiting that beautiful city. American Sokol is putting together another tour for Sokol members and friends to enjoy sightseeing activities during Slet week.

At our November 2015 Annual Meeting at Joe Bridges Clubhouse in Glendale, we celebrated the 100th birthday of honorary member Sister Anne Plachy. Her daughter Barbara and husband Hal Cluff, her son Bill and wife Liz Plachy, and her nephew Tom Mizera joined in the celebration and brought a beautiful cake for all to enjoy.

At the membership meeting in January 2016, members in attendance voted to add funds to the NCSML endowment established by ACA for Traveling Exhibits. I am working with Museum representatives to draft the endowment letter to ensure our funds will be directed per our members' wishes. We have had the privilege of viewing two of the exhibits here in Los Angeles and will have others displayed at future Annual Heritage events.

We said farewell to Consul General Michal Sedlacek as he returned to the Czech Republic with his family. We welcome new Consul General Pavol Sepelak. We are grateful to Mr. Sedlacek and his staff for all they did to support the Czech communities in California during his term here at the Czech Consulate in Los Angeles. It was during Mr. Sedlacek's term that Sokol Los Angeles was able to secure funds from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs to help support our cultural and heritage activities. We received a total of \$946 in 2012 via SVU-LA, \$3054 in 2013, \$4414 in 2014 and \$6584 in 2015. The majority of these funds are used to support Czech language classes and our Annual Heritage Event with added funding in 2015 for co-sponsoring the Annual Czech School Conference held in Los Angeles. Requests are submitted in July each year with distribution the following April.

I am thankful to my Sokol family and friends for your understanding and gracious support throughout 2015 during the "tough" times. It is good friends and family that helped me through it all. I believe I am now back on track and have found my "groove"!

Nazdar!

Lillian Roter, President

* * * * *

SOKOL Los Angeles 2016 Dues Notice



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank you to all who have submitted your membership dues for calendar year 2016. If you have not yet paid your dues, please remember that annual dues are payable at the beginning of each calendar year and are considered delinquent on March 31 and subject to membership suspension. Please mail your check for the appropriate amount payable to **Sokol Los Angeles** to Lillian Roter, 4817 Neblina Drive, Carlsbad, CA 92008 by February 29, 2016.

If you have any changes to your home address, phone number or e-mail address, please include that information along with your payment. If you no longer wish to be a member of Sokol Los Angeles, please respond by return mail. It is important that resignations be in writing.

Nazdar!

Darine Klega
Financial Secretary
Sokol Los Angeles

* * * * *

Officers and Directors for 2016 Elected on November 21, 2015

President -- Lillian Roter **Vice-President** -- Zdenka Svitek
Secretary/Financial Secretary -- Darine Klega **Treasurer** -- John Bednar
Education Director -- Jim Buchanan **Membership Director** -- Yvonne Masopust
Public Relations Director -- Zdenka Svitek
Men's Physical Director -- None **Women's Physical Director** -- None
Editor Sokol Notes -- Lillian Roter **Bylaws Chairman** -- Lillian Roter
Property Chairman -- Larry Phillips

* * * * *

Membership

Our membership stands at 97 of which 76 are voting (12 honorary) and 21 non-voting members. While we have suffered some losses in membership, we have been averaging between 95 and 100 members for the last few years.

Since the beginning of 2016 we have welcomed back former members Ben and Michelle Schear and welcomed new members Chana Green and Norma Read.

In 2015 we welcomed back former member John Bednar who has been attending meetings regularly. He volunteered to run for Treasurer for 2016, a welcome relief for President Lillian Roter who has been wearing multiple hats for several years. We also welcomed new member Jaro Savol, great nephew of George Azadian.

In 2014 we welcomed back former members Ludek Masopust and Ilona Schindler and Fresno transferee John Cinatl. We also welcomed new members Armin Gerstberger and Diane Sarkarati -- both joined through our Czech language classes -- and Miron Ilincev, Director of Czech School of Los Angeles.

As promised in the last issue of *Sokol Notes*, obituaries are included below for nine members and the husband of member Cheri Riddle who passed away between June 2014 and February 2016.

In Memoriam

John J. Zitny 11/9/1930 – 6/12/2014
Florence Fagnan 12/12/1916 – 10/29/2014
Mildred Kelly 4/26/1917 – 10/29/2014

Marvin Roter 6/17/1936 – 1/18/2015
Jaromir Strizka 6/22/1919 – 3/ /2015
Rocky Hanken 7/8/1945 – 4/25/2015
Danny Klega 12/29/1923 – 7/14/2015
Gary Riddle 5/6/1944 – 7/31/2015
George Azadian 9/9/1921 – 10/2/2015

Iva Prochazka 3/2/1933 – 2/26/2016

John J. Zitny, 1930--2014

John Zitny was born in Chicago, Illinois on November 9, 1930, to John and Sophie Zitny. He passed away on June 12, 2014 at the age of 83 after a short illness due to cancer.

His parents moved to Garden Grove, California, in October 1949 while John was attending North Central College in Naperville, Illinois. In February 1950 he transferred to the University of Southern California where he received his BA in 1951 and his law degree in 1955. After working for a firm in Santa Ana, John opened his own office in Buena Park, California in 1956. He became active in the community and served as Chairman of the Buena Park Planning Commission, President of the Jaycees, Chairman of the March of Dimes and Secretary of the North Orange County YMCA. In the 1970s he was a founding partner of Zitny, Hathaway and Kerr. In 1980 he was in the first group of attorneys to be certified as a Family Law Specialist by the State Bar of California. On two separate occasions, he was selected by his peers as a Super Lawyer®.

John is survived by his loving wife Shirley; his children: sons, John R. Zitny (Sue) of Yorba Linda, Barron Zitny (Pam) of Orange, Justin Zitny of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; daughters: Sonja Novovesky of Fort Collins, Colorado and Sherri Christiansen of Corona. He is also survived by 14 grandchildren and two great granddaughters. Also surviving are his step-children Gayle L. Miller, Gregg W. Miller and Rebecca Hilgen.

A celebration of John's life was held at Mama Cozza's Restaurant in Anaheim.

Published in Orange County Register on June 21, 2014

Florence Zelenka Fagnan, 1916 -- 2014

Florence was born on December 12, 1916, in Cleveland, Ohio. She passed away October 29, 2014 at the age of 97. She resided in Granada Hills, California at the time of her passing. Florence was an active member of CSA Lodge Los Angeles 458 and of Sokol Los Angeles since joining in March 1989.

Florence was preceded in death by her Husband Gerald Fagnan, daughter Barbara Prine, father Alois Zelenka, her mother, stepmother, brothers Louis and Joe, and sisters Marie and Bertha.

She is survived by her grandson Mike Prine, brother Bill, sister Jeanette and many nieces and nephews. Her son-in-law passed away shortly after her death.

Mildred Kelly, 1917 -- 2014

Mildred was born on April 26, 1917 and passed away October 29, 2014 at the age of 96. She joined Sokol Los Angeles in January 1959. Mildred and her husband made the meals at Sokol Hall for the annual spring and fall dinner dances for many years until they were no longer able. After her husband passed away, she moved to a retirement community and spent the last years of her life in a managed care facility.

Marvin Jay Roter, 1936--2015



Marvin (Marv) passed away peacefully in Saugus, CA, on Sunday, January 18, 2015, with his wife Lillian by his side. He was born in Trenton, NJ, to Meyer and Fay (Levy) Roter on June 17, 1936. The family moved to Burbank, CA in 1940. Marv graduated from San Fernando High School in 1954 and studied engineering and art at Los Angeles Pierce College. During the summers Marv slaved away at his father's electroplating shop, longing for a career in storytelling and cartooning.

After high school, Marv joined the Air National Guard; his unit was called to active duty in 1961. He served as a member of the 146th Air Transport Wing from October 1, 1961 to August 1962 -- honorably discharged from the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserves on August 31, 1962.

Although Marv had a love for art and writing, he worked as an aerospace engineer in Southern California for 35 years. After retirement from engineering he wrote and published his first Sci-Fi novel, *A World to Die For* in January 2000. His second novel, *The Three Circle Charm*, was published in May 2012. Before his passing he had already started writing a sequel to his first novel. Marv's creative mind took him to worlds beyond those we know and, with his gift, was able to share it with others.

Marv and Lillian moved to Saugus in December 1993. Marv loved to sing and joined the Men of Harmony barbershop chorus and Silverstone Singers mixed choral group, both in Santa Clarita, CA. He also joined the Golden Pen writers' group in Santa Clarita to broaden his writing skills and meet others with his passion for writing. He and his wife joined American Sokol Los Angeles, a Czech/Slovak organization, to learn more about Lillian's ancestral customs and to study the Czech language for a trip to the Czech Republic – not an easy undertaking. Marv also had a passion for old cars and was restoring his favorite – a 1964 Chevy Impala acquired from an aunt.

Marv is survived by his wife of 22 years, Lillian; his stepmother, Lee Roter of West Hills, CA; his sons: David Roter (Andrea) of Simi Valley, CA & Daniel Roter (Kim) of Santa Monica, CA; his stepchildren: Virginia Rodriguez (Glen Cruden) of Santa Cruz, CA and Patrick Rodriguez (Valerie) of Carlsbad, CA; eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; his siblings: Ted Roter (Brenda) of Northridge, CA; Joseph Roter (Keiko) of Chatsworth, CA; and Eva Rivas (Roger) of Santa Clarita, CA; four nephews, one niece and many extended family members.

Marv was a thoughtful, kind and gentle soul who touched the hearts of those he met. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and family and will be remembered for his wit and his suspenders. In honor of his wishes, a celebration of his life was held on February 7, 2015, at El Trocadero restaurant in Newhall, CA.

Jaromir Strizka, 1919--2015



Jaromir was born on June 22, 1919 in Czechoslovakia and passed away March 13, 2015 at the age of 95. He resided in Hollywood, California at the time of his passing.



In his younger days he was a pole vaulter and had qualified for the 1940 Olympics before the Games were canceled because of World War II. He fled his homeland with a friend after the war when the country came under Communist Party rule. They walked across the border to Austria and later emigrated to the United States.

In 1953 Jaromir established a musical instrument distribution and retail company, European Crafts, Inc., in Studio City, California and successfully rebuilt his fortune. He ran the business until 2014. A self-made man who shaped his own destiny, he had strong ties in the Los Angeles music industry.

Jaromir was a true philanthropist – his satisfaction came from helping others in his community without regard to personal recognition; his concern was to do good with the resources he shared. His estate donated \$15 million to Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center. Jaromir's association with Providence Saint Joseph stretched across more than 30 years. Through his gifts to Providence Saint Joseph, he demonstrated his desire to advance the future of community health care and support the countless patients who will benefit from his generosity. The hospital Emergency Department will be named in his honor.

Jaromir said he gave to the hospital because he believed it was the right thing to do. In 2013 he said, "This is my hospital and I want it to be the best it can be." He left the bulk of his estate to St. Joseph because of the quality of care he received there in the later years of his life.

A cat lover with no children and only distant relatives, he also left \$5 million to the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA. In commemoration of this donation, the largest the shelter has ever received in its 113-year history, the Animal Shelter will be renamed after Strizka. According to the shelter, Jaromir regularly donated to several animal welfare organizations. He had a lifelong respect for animals.

Rockford George Hanken, 1945 – 2015



Rockford (Rocky) was born on July 8, 1945. He passed away in his sleep on April 24, 2015 at the age of 69. He left behind his beloved wife of 42 years, Kathy; two children Samantha and Richard and a brother Garret. He was born in the United States, attended the University of Southern California, and served in the Navy during the Vietnam War. He worked over 25 years with IBM, over 25 years with his own company, and over 12 years as an adult educator and administrator. Rocky was a friend who improved the world around him. He will be sorely missed by all who had the opportunity to know him.

Rocky joined Sokol Los Angeles in 2004. He regularly attended monthly meetings and participated in Sokol L.A.'s Czech language classes held at Pasadena City College. He also actively participated in Sokol L.A.'s social functions.

A service was held in his honor on June 13, 2015 at the Rice Mortuary in Torrance where family and friends shared their memories.

Danny Klega, 1923 – 2015



Danny was born Dušan Klega on December 29, 1923 in Czechoslovakia. He passed away on July 14, 2015 at the age of 91. He loved the cinema and, while he didn't achieve matinee idol status, he did build quite a resume of character actor roles from 1962 to 1970 according to the Internet Movie Database.

Danny and Doris Klega rolled double sixes during a long-life filled with love and countless movies. They both had an adventurous youth, and the path on which they met began forming during World War II. Danny, who grew up in Czechoslovakia, was imprisoned in a German forced-labor camp but he escaped after a while.

"He made his way to France and landed a job on a cargo ship that traveled the world," his daughter Darcy wrote in a remembrance of her dad. "It was most thrilling for him to find that the ship was eventually going to dock in America. He said he always dreamt about America! This was a chance of a lifetime, and he decided to 'jump ship' and stay in New York," she wrote.

During this period Doris, age 14, was half a world away, living with her parents in Bombay, India, where her father was the Czechoslovakian Counsel General to India. With war breaking out, her mother brought Doris and her brother to America in 1944 and put them in a boarding school in Massachusetts.

In 1949 both Danny and Doris ended up in New York City. One evening both showed up at a Czech club called Sokol, Doris recalled, and it was essentially love at first sight. He spoke no English and she spoke Czech. They danced a bit, chatted and he asked for a date. They went to a movie in Times Square, ate hot dogs and drank Cokes. "He was very fun to be with and he was good looking," Doris said. "And he was a good tap dancer. He loved to tap dance."

After a two-month courtship, they married and kept the news from their parents for a while. Danny was a machinist and lost a job in 1951. They, like many other young couples, decided to hit the road in search of a better life. "We came to California on Route 66. We packed up our '51 Buick with our possessions. We came to Santa Monica and stayed in a motel," Doris said.

Danny wanted to be an actor and made the rounds of the studios, but he didn't have much luck. He got a job as a machinist at the Anheuser-Busch plant in Van Nuys and they built a little house in Topanga Canyon. In 1959 they moved into what is now West Hills, California. But Danny still had the acting bug and he kept his toe in the water, so to speak, and it finally panned out.

In 1962 he landed a character role in "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse"



starring Glenn Ford. He played a German Lieutenant. He also had a guest-starring role on Gilligan's Island playing a Russian Cosmonaut and had a featured role in "The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming" playing Polsky alongside Alan Arkin and Theodore Bikel. Jerry Lewis adored him and cast him in his TV Variety show and then in the movie "Which Way to the Front". Additional credits include: Combat, Mission Impossible, Torn Curtain, Guide for a Married Man and many more.

The couple that met at Sokol came to Tinseltown on storied Route 66 and had a long loving marriage that lasted 66 years. That adds up to double sixes and a life well lived.

Danny was a lifelong member of Sokol -- first in Ostrava, Czechoslovakia as a boy following his mother's lead who was also a Sokol all her life. Then joining Sokol Los Angeles in 1961 where he retained membership throughout the rest of his life. His daughter Darine Klega is currently secretary/financial secretary for Sokol Los Angeles -- a third generation proud Sokol!

Gary Riddle, 1944 -- 2015



Our beloved husband, father, grandfather and friend, Gary James Riddle, age 71, born in Fresno May 6, 1944, passed on July 31, 2015 of Pancreatic Cancer. He retired from the State Dept of Water Resources after 38 years. Gary was an avid Hot Rod fan as well as a builder of Street Rods. He was in the process of building a 1954 Chevy Truck given to him by his late father-in-law. He was a remarkable man who could build, fix, or create anything. There was never a time when a friend in need would call and he would drop everything to help. He loved his family more than anything. He always joked if he'd known having grandchildren was so much fun, he'd have had them first! He kept his sense of humor up until the end, always making us laugh.

He was preceded in death by his parents Zella and Rodney Riddle. Gary is survived by his wife of 47 years, Cheri; sons: Jared (Laurie) and Ryan (Stacy); grandchildren: Mackenzie, Madelynn, Lane, Layla and Bella; sister Patricia Berryman, as well as many loving sister/brother-in-laws, nieces and nephews.

We would like to thank all of our family, friends and doctors and nurses. They were a big part of our life for the past 3 years. A memorial was held for Gary on August 29. Donations may be made in Gary's memory to Hinds Hospice, 2490 W. Shaw, Suite 101, Fresno, CA 93711.

George Azadian, 1921 -- 2015



George J. Azadian, World War II veteran and longtime Sokol member, passed away on October 2, 2015 at the age of 94. He was born September 9, 1921 to an Armenian father and a Slovak mother and had two sisters and a brother.

Having lived so long and through such a significant time in history, George had a huge range of experiences. His heroics included his Navy career in WWII and the Korean War. Some of his many successes were graduating from USC in Chemistry, becoming the International Consultant for CF Braun and Co. (a global petroleum engineering business), designing his home in San Marino, and speeding around in a Jaguar XK150. George married the love of his life, actress Maria Cortez; the two shared a happy life of trips to

Yosemite, sailing, entertaining and traveling. A tragedy in George's life was Maria passing away from cancer within a year of George's retirement.

What made George even more exceptional were his everlasting charm and charisma, his care and responsibility to those important to him, and his zest for life that never faded. Up until the end, George was busy hosting dinners and visiting old and new friends. He was involved in many organizations, including Sokol Los Angeles. During the last 10 years of his life George was able to connect with his relatives in Bardejov, Slovakia and he developed a special bond with them, hosting them annually for visits to his home.

George's life stands as a reminder to the importance of The Greatest Generation, the value of a life well lived, and the preciousness of love, where, 38 years after his wife's death, Maria was never far from his thoughts or missing in his conversation. And to the writer of this obituary, his great nephew, he was an irreplaceable source of advice, friendship and inspiration.

Iva Prochazka, 1933 -- 2016



Sister Iva was born on March 2, 1933 and passed away on February 26, 2016 at the age of 82. Iva was a dedicated Sokol for over 47 years.

Iva served as a Director of Women and was responsible in teaching physical education and calisthenics for numerous Sokol Slets in America and abroad. She was a gymnastics instructor to many children, instructor at Dinkey Creek Camps, and teacher of Czech language. She participated in both national and international Sokol slets, and she participated in Czech plays early on. She was a member of a Czech Folk Dancing group and a leader in many Czech Scout Camps. For the Czech Beseda, Iva taught the debutante dances. She also taught gymnastics at YWCA in Glendale and was a gymnastics instructor in a local gym club for over 15 years. Many local kids knew her as a merry crossing guard. Her smile was contagious and she loved everyone she met.

Iva is survived by her loving husband Mila, her son Martin, daughter Brigit and grandchildren. She will be remembered with fondness by all whose lives she touched.

* * * * *

Words of Wisdom:

The Circle Has Healing Power

In the Circle we are all equal. When in the Circle, no one is in front of you;
No one is behind you; no one is above you; no one is below you.

The Sacred Circle is designed to create unity.

--Chief Dave Oglala Lakota

* * * * *

The things that matter most in this world are the things that inspire us.
From little curiosities that widen our eyes to tons of tiny steps that move us, transform us,
And ignite that spark for creativity and togetherness.
They're the things that teach us value, and the value of a life lived well.

* * * * *

To Your Health

On Fitness

With exercise, you will be healthier and happier. No matter what you do, make sure you're doing something every day. The key is to just keep moving. Being active is one key to staying young.

Do something active every day. It might mean taking the steps at work or going to the mall and walking a few laps while window shopping. Something is always better than nothing, and the little things add up quickly.

Do what you love. Liking what you are doing helps keep you motivated. Do something you enjoy. Go to the gym and play basketball instead of lifting weights, or take a long power walk instead of pedaling on the stationary bike. Having fun while working out -- what could be better?

Make your goal specific. Don't give yourself an unrealistic goal; instead, make a solid commitment that brings you toward that ultimate goal of feeling great. If you have a firm resolution, it will be harder to break. And if you make a vow to work out with a friend, you will have a cheerleader there to make sure you follow through.

* * * * *

*** Past Events ***

Dinkey Creek Camp 2015

Dinkey Creek Camp 2015 was held in July. The weather was warm and dry in the valley but there were nice showers in the mountains during the first two days of camp. The rain brought a little more water to the creeks so the pools were filled to almost normal level and we enjoyed taking baths in them.

The first day we went with new participants to all surrounding places like Indian Pool, Ghost Town (abandoned sawmill), Honeymoon Pool and the slides. Both new and old campers joined this first day walk.

There was a treasure hunt for children with some parents' help that



ended at the Indian Pool where everybody got a good water splash before getting an ice cream in the local store. One day we hiked to one of the most beautiful places in the area, Dinkey Dome, with hundreds of small or large pools and waterfalls. This is the day we get most of the tan on our bodies.

Because of the added water in the creek and in three lakes, there was also some successful fishing with fish for dinner. Jara Dusatko, president of Sokol San Francisco, gave a

presentation on how to prepare Czech Bramborak (potato pancakes).

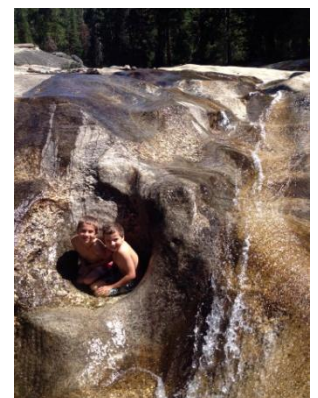


We also celebrated the life of former President Lynn Miller in the presence of her entire family. It was a little bit sad event but very nicely held by all members of her family.



There was also a table tennis competition and shooting the pyramid competition. The last day, as always, there was a picnic with the traditional Rusty Ball Competition in memory of Shelly Ballentine (Janelle's daughter).

I would say that this year Dinkey Creek Camp was one of the most enjoyable camps. There were absolutely no problems, and everybody participated in an activity he/she liked. We are looking forward to Dinkey Camp 2016.



Nazdar!

Otto Notzl, Camp Director

* * * * *

Conference of Czech Schools in Los Angeles

In June this year, the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Los Angeles had the pleasure to host an annual conference of Czech Schools in North America. The formal part of the Conference took place on Saturday, June 6th and Sunday, June 7th, and was attended by as many as 24 participants from 12 Czech schools: Dallas, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Atlanta, Washington DC, Seattle, Portland, San Diego, Orange County, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Durham NC. After the welcoming remarks by the Consul General, Michal Sedláček, a discussion panel was led by the Czech Deputy Minister of Education, Jaroslav Fidrmuc, followed by remarks by Ambassador Petr Gandalovič. During the panels, Mr. Robert Řehák, Cultural Attaché with the Czech Embassy in Washington D.C., offered essential information regarding grant applications provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. In the same context, Mrs. Michaela Žučková, President of the Czech School of California, offered tips on raising funds from private sources to support teaching Czech in the US. The activities of the “Czech Schools without Borders”, including summer camps and a global conference in Prague, were presented by its President, Mrs. Lucie Slavíková-Boucher, who flew in from Paris to attend the conference.

On Friday, June 5th, the participants had a chance to admire several cultural institutions in LA area (Getty Villa in Malibu, Dolby Theatre in Hollywood) and met with local Czech compatriots as well as dignitaries at a reception hosted by the Consul General Michal Sedláček, at his residence. The conference was organized jointly by the Czech Consulate General and the Czech School of Los Angeles and supported by the American Sokol in Los Angeles, to whom we wish to express our thanks and gratitude for all their help and steadfast support. A continual support of teaching Czech abroad is crucial, especially here in the US, where 90 percent of the Czech expatriate population is currently living. It is essential to maintain the cultural identity of Czech children who, while growing up in the United States, are naturally exposed primarily to the American culture. If you are interested in enrolling your children in the Czech School of Los Angeles contact vladkanderson@yahoo.com.

* * * * *

Czech Team Conquered Special Olympics 2015 in Los Angeles!

Special Olympics World Games held in Los Angeles for athletes with intellectual disabilities from over 160 countries. Some 6,500 athletes took part in the games that consisted of 25 sports. The Czech Republic participated in these unique and inspiring games with 46 athletes. The Czech athletes not only participated, but performed outstandingly in many disciplines! Czech team received 10 gold, 14 silver and 9 bronze medals. The delegation was led by the national director of the Czech team Ms. Martina Středová and personally supported by a longtime patron and honorary chairman, famous Czech ballet dancer and choreographer, Mr. Vlastimil Harapes, together with Member of European Parliament Ms. Martina Dlabajová. The unbelievable success of our Czech Special Olympics athletes deserves admiration, pride and encouragement. We congratulate them and wish them many other excellent achievements, especially in 2017 when Winter Special Olympics will be held in Austria.

* * * * *

Pacific District Annual Meeting – February 18, 2016

The Pacific District annual meeting was held by teleconference. A brief meeting was held followed by the election of officers and directors for the upcoming year.

President Yvonne Masopust provided updates from ASO with respect to the 2017 Slet in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and an Administrative Conference to be held later this year, as well as preliminary planning for the 2018 Slet to be held in Prague. ASO is planning a tour similar to the one provided in 2012 during that year's slet in Prague. Dinkey Creek was reserved by Cheri Riddle for July 17 – 24, 2016.



Treasurer Jiri Jancarik reported that the Dinkey Creek Camp 2015 netted a positive gain of \$640 after expenses. Unit dues payments to the District were discussed, and it was determined they should be increased. A motion to increase the annual per member dues from \$1.40 per year to \$3.00 per year was passed by the Board.

Voted into office are the following: President -- Yvonne Masopust; Secretary – Darine Klega; Treasurer/Financial Secretary – Jiri Jancarik; Education Director – Jara Dusatko; Men’s Director/Activity Director – Milos Zivny; Women’s Director – Cheri Riddle; Bylaws Chairman – Lillian Roter. Unit Presidents Jara Dusatko (San Francisco) and Lillian Roter (Los Angeles) serve as Vice-Presidents. The Unit Presidents also serve as Public Relations point of contact for their respective units.

* * * * *

Annual Heritage Event– Knollwood Country Club – October 25, 2015

-- Submitted by Lillian Roter

At our Annual Heritage Event, Sokol Los Angeles celebrated 150 years of Sokol in America with a very special program by the talented folklore group Karicka from San Diego. We enjoyed the good food, camaraderie and dancing to the live band *Then and Now*.

The Karicka folklore group provided dance demonstrations, singing traditional songs, a young violin duet and a young boy cracking a whip. It was a very entertaining program enjoyed by all.



* * * * *

Christmas Luncheon – December 19, 2015

Sokol Los Angeles held our annual Christmas and member appreciation luncheon at the Swiss Chef Restaurant in Van Nuys, CA. This was a change of venue mandated by the sale and closing of previously booked Beckham Grill in Pasadena. To our delight we shared great food and entertainment provided by our chef and an accordion player in a festive atmosphere fully decorated for the season.



While the food was not Czech, it was prepared with that European flare by renowned Swiss chef Ueli Huegli. Everyone enjoyed their meals as well as the entertainment. Chef Ueli donned various costume props as he performed songs from around the world. The accordion music was a nice touch and was performed throughout the luncheon. Our plans are to return to the Swiss Chef Restaurant for our Christmas luncheon on December 17, 2016.



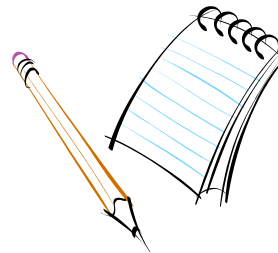
The Czech Consulate in Los Angeles' new Consul General Pavol Sepelak (pictured at left) joined us as our guest for this festive occasion. He was introduced by President Lillian Roter and he offered a special greeting to Sokol Los Angeles.

* * * * *

Important Contact Information

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
10990 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1100 Los Angeles, CA, 90024-4879
Phone: (310) 473-0889 Fax: (310) 473-9813
www.mzv.cz/losangeles

AMERICAN SOKOL LOS ANGELES
Lillian Roter, President
4817 Neblina Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008-3725
Phone: (805) 551-2525
gemplil@aol.com



* * * * *



Calendar of Events Sokol Los Angeles:

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|---|--|
| CY 2016 | General Meeting 3rd Saturday -- Joe Bridges Clubhouse Glendale, CA 11:00 am - 3:00 pm | Socials | Czech Class Pasadena City College -- 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Building R |
| March | 19-Mar | | 20-Mar |
| April | 16-Apr | | 10-Apr |
| May | 21-May | Spring Social Knollwood CC, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm May 1 ***** Moravian-Czech-Slovak 6 th Annual Festival San Diego May 14 | 15-May |
| June | 18-Jun | | tbd |
| July | No Meeting | Dinkey Creek Camp -- July 17-24 Contact: Yvonne Masopust ***** <i>Bartered Bride</i> Performance Santa Barbara July 29 or 31 | tbd |
| August | No Meeting | | tbd |
| September | 17-Sep | | |
| October | 15-Oct | Bus Trip/ San Diego Balboa Park Czech Day 19-Oct All Day Event Heritage Event Knollwood CC, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm Oct 23 or 30 | |
| November | 19-Nov | | |
| December | 17-Dec | Holiday Social -- Swiss Chef, Van Nuys 17-Dec - 11:30 am | |

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 Sokol education.

NAZDAR!