

Executive Board

President

Greg Schoepke.

1st Vice President

John Kozlik

2nd Vice President

Sonia Riecan

Secretary

Cheryl Locicero

Treasurer

Harold Kralik

Financial Secretary

Gerald Novotny

Director of Women

Jim Hron

Director of Men

Gerald Novotny

Director of Education

Sonka Tostrud

Inside this issue:

- Holiday Folk Fair
- Calendar
- SLET UPDATE
- Moja Vlast tours
Europe
- Iva Bittova Concert
- Czech/Slovak Film
Series
- Gymnastic Program
Update
- Our Librarian
Recommends
- Sokol Music

Folk Fair Flair



Photo by Anne Pryor

Sonia Riecan and Wally Wenzel perform at the 67th Annual Holiday Folk Fair. For more on the Folk Fair see page 3. On page 7 read about the dance group's European tour.

CALENDAR

February		
February 1	Gymnastics Class	6:45 – 8:00 pm
February 7	Monthly Meeting	7:00 – 9:00 pm
February 8	Gymnastics Class	6:45 – 8:00 pm
February 11	Baking Session	8:00 am
February 12	Moja Vlast Dancers At Serb Hall	
February 13	Czech Dinner & Obchod	
February 15	Gymnastics Class	6:45 – 8:00 pm
February 22	No Gym Class	Mid- Winter Break
March 1	Gymnastics Class	6:45 – 8:00 pm
March		
March 7	Monthly Meeting	7:00 – 9:00 pm
March 8	Gymnastics Class	6:45 – 8:00 pm
March 11 & 12	Czech & Slovak History and Culture Conference Cedar Rapids, IA	See www.ncsml.org for details
March 15	Gymnastics Class	6:45 – 8:00 pm
March 19	Iva Bittova & Present Music concert	See page 8 for details
March 27?	WFLA Meeting at Benny's Restaurant	Noon
March 22	Gymnastics Class	6:45 – 8:00 pm
March 29	Gymnastics Class	6:45 – 8:00 pm

Unless otherwise indicated all events are at the Norway House,
7507 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI, 53219.

If you have an event you would like to have included in the calendar contact Gerald Novotny, (608) 241-9080 or novotny01@sbcglobal.net with details (name, date, time and place.) Check our web site for updates and changes.

67th Annual Folk Fair

The 67th Annual Folk Fair is history and for the 67th straight year Milwaukee Sokol had a strong presence at the Fair. The Moja Vlast Folklorny Subor dancers made a big impression on fair goers and our Cultural, Food and Sales Booths were well-attended.

53 ethnic groups participated in the 2010 Folk Fair although only 22 of the groups offered food. Attendance figures for the 3 days have not been published.



One sad note to report is that our boy and girl gymnasts did not perform on the Youth Stage this year. Because we did not have enough children in class early in the year and our new uniforms were not yet available we felt we could not make a good showing. As far as anyone can remember this is the first time our gymnasts did not have an opportunity to perform at Folk Fair.

On the positive side, everyone who attended the fair had a good time and the Sales and Food Booths did good business and brought in some much needed revenue.

This year, though the initiative of Pat Hron, we were pleased to have students from Audubon High School working in our food and sales booths. The students did a great job.



We would like to thank all our volunteers for their hard work, especially the committee heads - Ann Cramer, Food Booth; Pat Hron – Sales Booth; Sonia Riecan and Sonka Tostrud – Cultural Booth and Dance Group; Colleen O'Mahar, Baking; and our representative to the Folk Fair Pat Hron,

Look over the list of volunteers on the following page and you get an idea of magnitude of the effort required to pull off this event. It is through your efforts that this organization stays alive.

Děkuji vám mnohokrát



I apologize if I have missed anybody on this list. Please let me know and we'll print correction in the next newsletter.

2010 FOLK FAIR VOLUNTEERS**Food Booth**

Nancy Bitzan
 Anna Bosch
 Laurie Bosch
 Romana Bosch
 Lory Bresina
 Dorothy Buchanan
 Amy Carriere
 Collin Carriere
 Cate Comhdor
 Bob Conrad
 Keith Cramer
 Jenine Cramer
 Chris Cramer
 Dorothy Dreir
 Angel English
 Brandon English
 Jessica Faga
 Eric Faga
 Jean Falarsh Guse
 James Goeden
 Joseph Howard
 Marlene Ilecki
 Amanda Johaneck
 Marilyn John
 Joanna Jonas
 Carol July
 Carol Kaminski
 John Kozlik
 Stephanie Krubsack
 Mildred Liska
 Marina Liska
 Gerald Novotny
 Diane O'Reilly
 Joan Paepcke
 Mary Pawlak
 Jessica Pawlak
 Terri Pietrangelo
 Alyssa Pietrangelo
 Pam Pietrangelo
 Sue Rommel
 Jim Sanders
 Charlene Sanders
 Greg Schoepke
 Milly Skowera
 Jack Sordahl

Jeanne Swendrowski
 Laura Taormina
 Sally Teresinke
 Terry Van Gorder
 Mary Vavra Conrad
 Jan Vojta
 Ellen Vojta
 Ann Vojta Cramer
 Nancy Vose
 Marcella Wenzel
 Rosemary Zelenka
 Jerome Zelenka
 Mary Zelenka
 Jerry Zelenka
 Rebecca Zelenka

Dancers

Sonia Riecan
 Sonka Tostrud
 Mark Tostrud
 Jason Ottman
 Krista Berner
 Laura Moerer
 Carly Kroll
 Wally Wenzel
 Ryan Wiesman
 Jenny Sutton
 Tina Sutton
 Kelly Quick

Cultural Booth

Sonia Riecan
 Sonka Tostrud
 Mark Tostrud
 Jason Ottman
 Krista Berner
 Laura Moerer
 Carly Kroll
 Wally Wenzel
 Ryan Wiesman
 Jenny Sutton
 Tina Sutton
 Kelly Quick
 Margaret Sutton
 Stephanie Sutton
 Jackie Sutton

Tami Roeber
 Robin Hensersky

Sales Booth

Jarka Axtell
 Blanche Bauman
 Leroy Bauman
 Adrienne Bouchonville
 Yvonne Bouchonville
 Marilyn Burke
 Vera Frazier
 Alice Haertlein
 Patricia Hron
 James Hron
 Carole Jezek
 John Kozlik
 Harold Kralik
 Cheryl LoCicero
 Alex LoCicero
 Judy Lukas
 Rita Mauerman
 Mary Medo
 Maryellen Mikulay
 Barb Mikulay
 Maryjo Schoepke
 Rebecca Schoepke
 Marleen Stevens
 Karen Sundland

Baking Crew

John Kozlik
 Dorothy Buchanan
 Vlasta Hron
 Fran Novotny
 Jaroslav Novotny
 Ruth Kraft
 Evelyn Anderson
 Anna Trochta
 Jean Swendrowski
 Mille Erdman
 Ann Cramer
 Jenine Cramer
 Cynthia Stevens
 Denise Stevens
 Marlene Stevens
 John Stevens

Anna Feldmeier
 Sierra Feldmeier
 Tony Feldmeier
 Mary Medo
 Marcella Wenzel
 Matt Wenzel
 Mary Jo Schoepke
 Rebecca Schoepke
 Kelly Quick
 Amy Carriere
 Alyssa Cramer
 Rosemary Zelenka
 Jerome Zelenka
 Joann Czerawinski
 Melissa Czerawinski
 Fran Marlenger
 Marie Ancinec
 Mildred Liska
 Dorothy Dreier
 Colleen O'Mahar

Meat & Gravy

Mike Feldmeier

Zeli

Jerome Zelenka

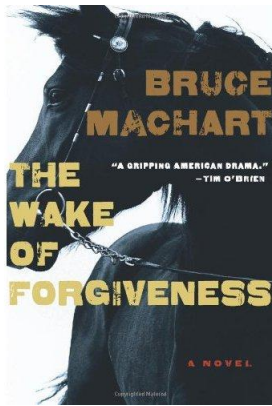
Transportation

Matt Wenzel

Audubon HS**Students**

Brande Lor
 Robert Lozano
 Brian Butler
 Khadija Poston
 Lisa Vang
 Jorge Zuniga
 Jennifer Vanselow
 Natasha Trejo
 Jennifer Munoz
 Cirinne Roth
 Mai Choua Vang
 Danielle Tokarski

Your Librarian Recommends...



Our Sokol librarian, Kelly Quick, recommends a new novel by a Texas author (and her former high school classmate!), Bruce Machart. Kelly says her copy of the book will eventually be available in our library.

Machart talking of his background says:

“My paternal grandfather was Czech, born in Praha, Texas, and baptized at St. Mary’s, which plays a significant role in the novel. He later moved to Weid, and he and my grandmother, who was German, met at a dance in Moulton. All of these places have found their way into the novel. I recently discovered that my great-great-great uncle was a founding member of the Shiner Brewing Association, basically a bunch of Czech immigrants who were homesick for good pilsner. This group later grew into the Spoetzl Brewery, which appears in the novel and still makes really good Bohemian-style beer today. I grew up going to family reunions at which the band played polkas and pretty much everyone knew how to do the schottische. The buffet tables were loaded with Czech and German staples: sausage and potato salad, kolaches, poppy seed rolls.

And I remember, as a kid, hearing the rosary said in Czech before a funeral Mass in Shiner.”

You can find out more about Machart and the novel at his website:
www.brucemachart.com

Gymnastics Class Update

Our 2010 -2011 gymnastics class is smaller than expected but the boys and girls make up in enthusiasm what they lack in numbers.



As you can see from the photo our gymnasts currently sport a wide variety of attire.

However our new Sokol uniforms have finally arrived and we will be able to have a more “uniform” appearance for our exhibition.

We have moved the day for our annual exhibition to a Friday evening May 13, 2011. We are hoping this will allow more of our parents and members to attend. Please show your support for our

gymnasts by coming out to celebrate their achievements.

Our 143rd Annual Exhibition and Awards Program will be Friday Evening May 13, 2011.

With instructors Jim Hron, Cynthia Stevens, Rebecca Schoepke and Gerald Novotny we are able to offer a very low student-to-teacher ratio. It’s not too late to sign up – so if you know anyone with children that might be interested have them call Jim Hron at 414 817-0070 or stop by the Norway House on Tuesdays at 6:45 to see what we offer.

ODDS & ENDS

According to Readers Digest the percentage of people in selected nations who tell their spouses, “I love you” every day is as follows:

Country	%
United States	65
Canada	53
Mexico	48
United Kingdom	46
France	34
Japan	27
Italy	26
Germany	25
China	25
Czech Republic	14

What’s up with those Czechs?

2013 Slet Update

Not seen in Milwaukee since 1891

The 2013 American Sokol Slet will be held in Milwaukee. This will be the first time since 1891 that the city has hosted such a gathering of Sokols. The word Slet means "a flocking of birds" – in this case the Sokols (or Falcons). Slets are held in the Czechlands every 6 years. By tradition in the United States they are held every 4 years.

The word "Slet" was apparently not used for 1891 national meet in Milwaukee. But the 4 day event included a parade, athletic competitions, and a grand calisthenics exhibition, as well as music, food and fellowship - all the trappings of a Slet.

Planning for the 2013 Slet is underway. Dates have not been set but the event is targeted for June. Stay tuned for further developments and opportunities to be involved.



2009 Slet at Fort Worth.

Read about the 1891 Slet in this article from the Daily Journal, July 31, 1891. Copies of the complete article will be available at our regular monthly meeting.

BOHEMIANS TO CELEBRATE

Four Days of Gymnastic Contests Coming in August.

THE PROGRAMME BRIEFLY GIVEN

Thousands of Visitors Expected from All Over the Country and Sharp Competition in All the Contests.

Beginning Aug. 20 Milwaukee will be given up for four days to the Bohemians. The event will be the Bohemian national gymnastic contests arranged by the Narodni Jednota Sokolska (Bohemian association of Sokols), an association with societies in nearly every city of prominence in this country. The aims of the association, as shown by its constitution, are: To develop the physical and mental faculties of its members; to carry out their object, the societies must have a gymnasium open to men and women, boys and girls, at appropriate times. The creation of dramatic and singing sections, establishing of libraries and schools for the benefit of their members. It favors and advocates public school education.

The coming contests will be participated in by every society belonging to the association. The preparations have been made on a large scale and the enthusiasm of Bohemians is aroused throughout the country. This event will be accepted as a general Bohemian celebration and gathering, such as has never been held anywhere in this country. It is estimated that over 7,000 visitors will be present during the contests.

Moja Vlast Folklorny Subor Czech-Slovak Dancers Corner

By Sonia Riecan

In July 2010, Moja Vlast Folklorny Subor had the great honor of performing in the Czech and Slovak Republics. Our trip began in Nitra on July 3rd, 2010, which is in the Slovak Republic where we competed at an all college competition. It was an amazing experience with 22 other groups from all over the world.

After Nitra we went on to Nove Mesto Nad Vahom and performed an hour long show, complete with singing and live musicians. On July 11th, we then moved on to Detva and performed in front of a packed house on a gorgeous day outside in 100 degree heat.

After Detva we went to Martin, Bratislava, Vienna and Prague and even saw the Sokol building in Prague and the Sokol hostel.



Sokol Hostel Prague, Czech Republic

We also went on a boat ride on the Danube River in Vienna, which was fabulous. The entire trip was an amazing experience full of gorgeous scenery, tasty food and wonderful people and of course beautiful castles and amazing culture. We also visited many historic sites and even went to an ice cave, called Demenovska Jaskyna, which was very refreshing on a hot day

Most of our members had never been to the Czech and Slovak Republic and so it was truly an amazing experience to share with them. The weather was between 90-110 degrees the entire time, so we were always toasty and at night there was no air-conditioning, but no one complained and just enjoyed the experience.



Nove Mesto Na Vahom, Slovakia

We stayed at student housing so the group was able to experience what actual student dorms are like and also to see the difference in college dorm food. The food was always excellent and very abundant. The music was wonderful and lively and the other groups we were fortunate enough to meet were fun and welcoming people. We had live music serenading us until 4am every night, since it was a constant festival. There are no words to describe this trip, but we will always remember it fondly. We look forward to going back again soon. Thank you to all who made this trip possible. You are very dear in our heart

Moja Vlasts' next show is February 12th, 2011 at Serb Hall. We look forward to seeing you all soon. If you know anyone 16 or older who is interested in dancing call Sonia @ (414) 313-3063 or email me at mojavlast@aol.com. Any kids between 10-15, call me about dance this summer/fall 2011.

Iva Bittova in Concert

Will perform with Present Music



Iva Bittova will appear in concert with Milwaukee's Present Music ensemble at 7:30 pm on March 19, 2011 at the Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 790 West Van Buran Street. Bittová has been described as "a Czech singer, violinist and composer with irresistible charm, original use of voice, and fondness of melodies that sit on the border of avant-garde and folk music."

After a career as an actress, (she appeared in many Czech films including the role of

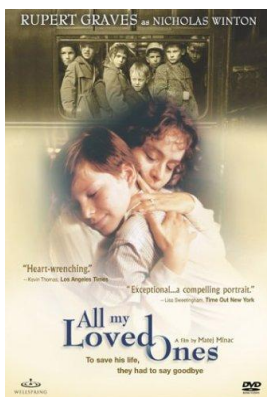
Žena in the movie *Želary*, part of our 2009/2010 film series) Bittova increasingly turned her attention to music. Her musical interests are very wide-ranging including jazz, rock, folk, classical music and opera.

Present Music is an internationally acclaimed contemporary music ensemble that commissions, performs, and records the music of living composers. Present Music was awarded the ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers)/Chamber Music America Adventurous Programming Award for their 2009-10 season.

The Concert is sponsored by Milwaukee Sokol. Tickets are \$30, \$20, and \$5 for students – Sokol members receive a 20% discount using code SOKOL online or by calling (414) 271-0711. Student tickets must be ordered by phone.

If you search the internet for "Iva Bittova" you can find video clips from her performances. Tickets can be purchased on-line at www.presentmusic.org For more on Iva Bittova visit her official website at <http://www.bittova.com/index.php>

Czech & Slovak Film Series

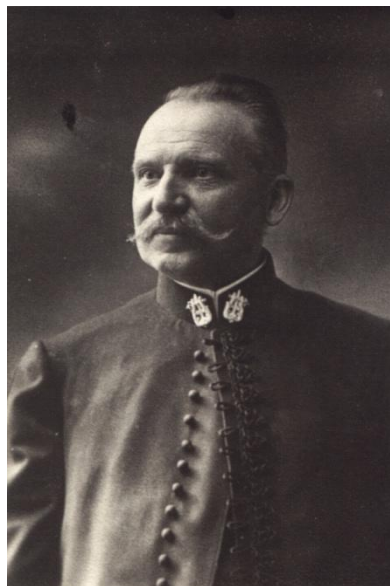


The last film in this season's series, *All My Loved Ones*, will be shown on **Sunday April 10, 2011 at 1:00 pm** at the Norway House. This film chronicles the fate of a Czech-Jewish family as the Nazi menace slowly closes in on them. The film also recounts the story of real-life hero, British stockbroker, Nicholas Winton, by whose efforts over 600 Jewish children were sent to safety in England before the war in Europe stopped the trains. This joint Czech, Slovak, Polish and German production was the official Slovak entry in 2002 Academy Awards for best foreign film.

Sokol Music

František Kmoch (August 1, 1848 - April 30, 1912)

By Gerald Novotny



The music you hear at our exhibitions may be familiar and yet you might not be aware of the rich tradition of Sokol music. In the first in a series of articles on Sokol Music we will look at the life and career of the “Bohemian March King,” Frantisek Kmoch.

Kmoch is closely linked to Sokol. He was born in the Czech hamlet of Zásmuky. His family eventually moved to the nearby city of Kolin where Kmoch lived most of his life and today is honored with an annual Kmoch Kolin brass band festival.

His early musical training came from his family. His father, Jakub, a tailor, was the lead clarinetist in a local band and his mother Katerina sang folk songs to her six children - all boys.

Kmoch graduated from the Teaching Institute in Prague in 1868 and that same year he became conductor of the Sokol Wind Orchestra in Kolín. The Orchestra played in the opening ceremony of the 1873 Gymnastics Festival in Prague and was warmly received both for original compositions by Kmoch and arrangements of well-known folk songs.

He married Josefa Kahslova, daughter of a Kolin metalworker. They had five children - all daughters.

In 1874 he was named the permanent bandmaster of the Kolin Sokol Band which he fashioned into a professional brass band to provide musical accompaniment for Sokol events. The band performed frequently at balls and other events in Prague and toured throughout Bohemia and Moravia and central Europe including Krakow (1884), Budapest (1886) and Vienna (1899). A 1882 concert in Brno was attended by the young Leos Janacek who we will meet in a later article.

Kmoch wrote over 500 compositions including polkas and symphonic pieces but is best known for his marches. Rather than following strictly military themes, his compositions were deeply rooted in Czech folklore

and folk music. In Kmoch marches, the middle section, called the “trio”, included lyrics sung by the musicians, a choir, or even the entire audience. The lyrics expressed a Czech patriotism which at times irritated the Austrian government. Kmoch concerts however were often well received by ethnic German audiences.

Czech immigrants brought his music to America. Joseph Jiran, a Czech music publisher in Chicago also helped to make Kmoch popular with the immigrant community and more broadly with band music lovers.

His compositions for Sokol include: Sokolsky den (Sokol Day); Za praporem (Behind the Flag); Spejme dal (Let’s Advance) which later became the motto of Czech legions; and, Lvi silou (Lion Strength) that Kmoch dedicated to Sokols in the United States.





Sokol/Sokolice Milwaukee
7507 W. Oklahoma Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53219
(Located in the Norway House)

*About Sokol/Sokolice
Milwaukee...*

Sokol/Sokolice Milwaukee
is a Czech educational,
cultural and physical
fitness organization
offering gymnastic classes
and activities for people of
all ages and ethnicities.

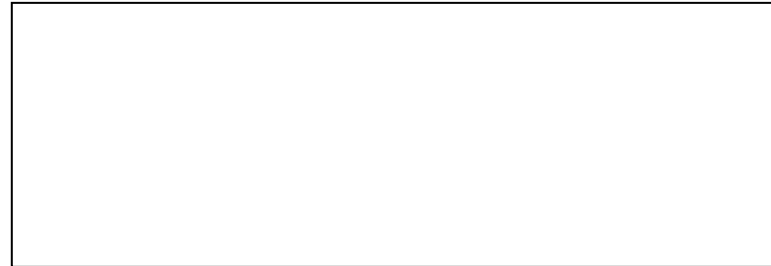
VISIT US AT:

[http://www.sokol-
milwaukee.org/index.html](http://www.sokol-milwaukee.org/index.html)

Web Master
Harold Kralik
hkralik@sokol-
milwaukee.org

Our Motto:

**"A Sound Mind in a
Sound Body"**



REMINDER

Your annual membership fee
of \$40 (\$75 per couple) is due
March 7, 2011

To submit an article or letter for publication or to suggest a topic
that you would like included in this newsletter please contact the
editor at:

Gerald Novotny
1409 Iowa Drive
Madison, WI 53704

Phone: (608) 241 -9080
E-mail: novotny01@sbcgobal.net