



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA
Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 66

MARCH 2015

NUMBER 3

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 18, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

by March 16 to
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
or 847-635-0883

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, March 30, 7:00 P.M.
PNA Home Office

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 18, 2015—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Wednesday, April 15, 2015—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Saturday, May 2, 2015—
Pre-Parade Brunch
Hotel Allegro, Walnut Room

Wednesday, May 20, 2015—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

SAVE THE DATE!

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PRE-PARADE BRUNCH

Please save the date! The Chicago Society's Annual Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2015, in the Walnut Room of the Hotel Allegro, 171 W Randolph St, Chicago, Illinois.

The cost of the brunch is \$35.00 per person. Reception will be at 8:45 a.m., seating at 9:45 a.m., and a delicious plated brunch will be served at 10:00 a.m. This is the 124th Chicago parade in honor of this historic document, the first democratic constitution in Europe and second in the world only to the United States Constitution.

Tickets may be purchased now via our website at <http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html>. For additional information or reservations for the Brunch, please contact Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883 or 847-331-8007.

The Chicago Society will have a float and marching unit in the Parade. There will be a band on the float and space for some persons to sit. Those members who will not attend the brunch but will march can contact Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** or Brother **Frank Czaja** (official float chairman) as to our place in the parade. Information on the day of the event can also be obtained from any parade marshal. Preferred attire for the marchers is gray slacks, dark jacket, red tie and white shirt. A business suit is certainly acceptable.

Please make your reservation early because there is limited seating this year. Brother Matuszczak has been involved with the Brunch since its inception in May, 1978, making this his 38th year. Co-chairmen are Brother **Charles Komosa** and Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert**.

MARCH MEETING SPEAKER

Brother **Robert Groszek**, Civic Vice President, has arranged for Jacob Kaplan to be our featured speaker at the March General meeting. Kaplan is the Executive Director of the Cook County Democratic Party, and has worked on many successful progressive campaigns including that of State Representative Brother **Robert Martwick**.

Kaplan is an historian as well. He is a co-founder and editor of *Forgotten Chicago*, a group setup to conduct research, write articles, and conduct tours and lectures focused around Chicago's overlooked history and architecture.

Kaplan co-authored the recently released Arcadia Publishing history book "Images of America: Avondale and Chicago's Polish Village," a book on the overlooked history of the Avondale neighborhood on Chicago's Northwest Side.

He will speak on several interesting topics.

The March general meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at the White Eagle. The dinner menu for the evening includes succulent corned beef, cabbage, salad, potatoes, a surprise dessert, and an ice cold pitcher of cold beer at each table. The social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. and dinner is at 7:00 p.m. Please call Brother **Ro Matuszczak** at (847) 635-0883 or send an e-mail to him at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org for reservations.





CHICAGO
SOCIETY
Forum

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Chicago Society PNA membership

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www.chicagosocietypna.org

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

Dear Brothers,

The month of February was bone chilling cold but was filled with many activities involving the Chicago Society and its members to keep them warm.

I want to thank all of our members and their friends for attending our annual Pre-Lenten *Śledź* on February 17, 2015, at Przybyło's White Eagle Banquets. I would like to especially acknowledge and thank Brother **Frank Czaja** and the person behind the scenes, his wife Darlene, for putting on another great *Śledź*. This year's pageant was highlighted by the cameo appearance of Brother **L. Steven Rakowski**, outgoing President of the Advocates Society, as the "Angel." He did look angelic with his halo, wings and wand saving souls by giving out Life Savers Mints! And no pageant could be complete without the King and Queen, where Brother **Andrew Zapalski** and Teresa Sokolowska served so regally in their roles. And congratulations to Brother **Richard Jadcak** for being named this year's St. Joseph.

From here the activities continued the next day with our general monthly meeting with the presentation of Mrs. Mariyana Spyropoulos, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago who brought as part of her talk, an actual 50 gallon rain barrel distributed by her office for our raffle.

The month of March started off with the Pulaski Day Celebration at the Polish Museum of America on March 2, 2015, with a house full of dignitaries and politicians. The Polish Ambassador to the United States Ryszard Schnepf and Governor Bruce Rauner were present, as well as many members of the Society.

The White and Red Ball closely followed on March 7, 2015, at the Chicago Hilton Hotel. The Chicago Society supports the activities of the Legion of Young Polish Women in keeping our Polish traditions and cultural activities current for our future generations of Polonia.

Just a quick note, the Polish Constitution Day Parade will be on May 2, 2015, and will be stepping off this year on Wacker Drive and Dearborn Street. The pre-parade brunch will be held at the Walnut Room of the Hotel Allegro (formerly known as the Bismarck Hotel). More details to follow.

There is a lot going on so I hope to see you and your business associates at our upcoming events. Please drop me an e-mail with your thoughts or questions regarding the Society.

Fraternally,
Brother Ted Makarewicz



Dear Brothers,

March started off great with the General Casimir Pulaski Celebration Ceremony at the Polish Museum of America. The house was packed with many of our members and members of our beloved Polish American Community. There was also a major showing from elected officials and candidates seeking to be elected to City office

in April.

The March Madness continues as I celebrate my 48th birthday on March 10. I am a Pisces and "being a Pisces born on March 10, your personality is defined by sensitivity, intuition and a self-sacrificing nature. While others struggle with understanding how others are feeling, Pisces have an innate sensitivity to the emotions of others. Your initiation seems to reach the level of psychic ability at times, as you know exactly when a loved one is troubled or bothered. Instead of using your emotional receptivity to your advantage, you choose to help others, no matter what the cost. Your family and friends can recall numerous occasions where you made substantial sacrifices for their well-being." Just in case you wanted to know.

Have a fantastic month of March.

Fraternally,
Brother Charles Komosa



AROUND THE SOCIETY!

Condolences to Brother **Joseph & Irene Hercik** on the loss of his mother-in-law, Jean Marud in February.

Congratulations to Brother **David Utting** who has been promoted to Detective in the Chicago Police Department.

General Pulaski Day Celebration at the Polish Museum of America sightings: Brothers **John Cieslik** with Illinois State Comptroller Leslie Geissler Munger, **Frank Spula**, **Don Versen**, **Joseph Drobot**, **Hubert Cioromski**, **Mark Orwat**, **Ted Makarewicz**, **Charles Komosa**, **Andrew Przybylo**, **Ro Matuszczak**, **Robert Martwick**, **Dan Pikarski**, **John Pikarski**, **Mark Kupiec**, **Paul Odrobina**, **Henry Marciniak**, **Vojtek Putz**, **Tom Startek**, **Andrew Zapalski** and **Ted Palka**.

High Society! Brother **Robert & Jennifer Groszek** and **Mark & Renata Pasiaka** were spotted enjoying an opera at Symphony Center. The evening was so relaxing that Brother **Robert** decided to nap during one of the acts. The next morning, the Groszek children (Luke & Drake) and the Pasiaka children (Angie, Emma and Mark Junior) enjoyed a buffet breakfast prepared by Jennifer at their makeshift Bed and Breakfast home after an evening of board games and fun for the children!

Congratulations to Brother **Darek Kozlowski** and his new wife Sabina Kozlowski on their private marriage ceremony in Florida late last year and congratulations on their new life and home in Arlington Heights.

Brother **William "Bill" Wojcik**, owner of Laramie Bakery (two locations), made over 45,000 *pączki* combined for both Fat Thursday and Fat Tuesday in February. That certainly is a lot of dough!

Brother **Peter & Agnieszka Dykas** spent Valentine's weekend resorting with their children in Galena and sent their son Mateusz to ski school! Brother Peter commented that he wants his son to master the fluffy slopes!

Brother **Robert & Jennifer Groszek**, with sons Luke & Drake, spent Valentine's/President's Day weekend on the slopes of Rib Mountain and Black Diamond with Katarzyna Kaes, daughter of Brother **Gerhard Kaes**, with her daughter Mattie and husband.

Brother **Charles & Agata Komosa** celebrated their 12th Wedding Anniversary on Valentine's Day with a romantic long weekend trip to Wisconsin Dells, hitting the Water Parks with sons Charley & Alex.

Brother **Robert Groszek** mentioned that his wife Jennifer spent General Pulaski Day and Dr. Seuss' birthday with friend Jane Simers by reading stories to children at St. Ferdinand Grade School in Chicago.

MORE POLISH DEFENSE SPENDING

Polish Prime Minister Ewa Kopacz stated on February 17 that Poland intended to increase its defense expenditures by no less than 2% of the gross domestic product (GDP). She announced that the money would help to implement more modern technologies for the Polish army.

ŚLEDŹ A HUGE SUCCESS

Over 75 members and their guests enjoyed the Annual Chicago Society Śledź, held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, at Przybylo's White Eagle in Niles. Following a welcome from Śledź, Chairman Brother **Frank Czaja** and President Brother **Ted Makarewicz**, Brother **Frank Czaja** introduced our 2014 St. Joseph, Brother **Charles Komosa** to give the invocation, asking for God's blessings on those gathered as we enter Lent.

A delicious dinner, starting with the traditional *śledzie* followed by a dinner of traditional Polish cuisine, including *żurek*, chicken, *pierogi*, and other accompaniments, was graciously served by the White Eagle staff. In keeping with the tradition of *Pączki* Day, the guests enjoyed delicious *pączki*, donated by Brother **William Wojcik**, manager of Laramie Bakery.

A revised and energetic Śledź pageant was narrated by Brother **Ted Makarewicz**, in a *Mardi Gras* costume, who spoke of the traditions incorporated in the pageant. These traditions stem from the Middle Ages, when people feasted prior to the fasting required of Lent. Singers traveled from house to house, with much frivolity, presenting a variety of plays and pantomimes.

Our pageant included a number of "characters": the Angel (Brother **Steve Rakowski**), symbolizing all that is good; the Devil (Brother **Robert Groszek**), tempting us to break our Lenten fast, Father Time (Brother **Fred Koziol**), the reaper of all, and the pallbearers (Brother **Mark Orwat**, Brother **Ronald "Topper" Topczewski**, Brother **Harold Brown**), carrying the *śledź*. Ruling over the festivities were the King and Queen of the pageant, Brother **Andrew Zapalski** and his friend Teresa Sokolowski.

Finally, our current St. Joseph Brother **Charles Komosa** anointed Brother **Ryszard Jadczyk** as the Chicago Society's St. Joseph for 2015. Music was provided for the guests after dinner by DJ Rick Rzeszutko.

Everyone in attendance enjoyed the evening. Brother **Frank Czaja** would like to thank his wife Darlene and Brother **Tom Sieja** for all their assistance for another successful Śledź.

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PROPOSED FOR CHICAGO SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The following gentlemen have applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. If any member has an objection regarding the admission of either of these prospective members, he should contact the Personnel Director prior to the next general meeting. Sponsors are to attend the general meeting in which the new member will be inducted and to introduce him to the Personnel Director and to others before the Induction Ceremony.

Name: Robert Pietryka
Address: 5734 W. Diversey Ave.
Chicago, IL 60639
Phone: (773) 889-0115
Occupation: Funeral Director & Owner,
Pietryka Funeral Home
Birth date: December 30, 1967
Birthplace: Chicago, IL
Education: B.A. Political Science, Univ.
of Illinois at Chicago
Sponsors: Brothers Charles Komosa
and Joseph Hercik

Name: Slawomir "Slaw" Plewa
Address: 7516 N. Oconto Ave.
Chicago, IL 60631
Phone: (773) 775-4087
Occupation: Police Officer, Chicago Police
Department
Birth date: August 31, 1978
Birthplace: Poland
Education: Mortuary Science, Morton
College
Sponsors: Brothers Charles Komosa
and Joseph Hercik

Name: Casimir Rudak
Address: 314 Eaton Street
Northfield, IL 60093
Phone: (847) 386-7292
Occupation: Retired
Birth date: May 8, 1938

Birthplace: Wilno
Education: Engineering in Electronics
Sponsors: Brothers Jan Plachta and
Marian Skawski

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

The Chicago Society would like to extend to the following brother members, who are celebrating their birthday in March, a warm wish of *Sto Lat!*

- 4 Fred Lebed
- 9 Joseph Bauerle
- 10 Charles Komosa
Edmund Nowak
- 14 Milton Steinke
- 16 Paul Odrobina
- 18 Jerry Sufanski
- 20 Paul Koontz
Les Sraga
- 21 Dale Ihssen
- 22 Alfred Kotlarz
- 23 Christopher Grzadziel
Daniel Pikarski
- 24 Mitchell Pasiewicz
William Sufanski
- 27 Ted Szywala

POLISH CONSTITUTION PARADE NEW ROUTE

This year's Chicago celebration of the Polish Constitution of 1791 will be held on Saturday, May 2nd, 2015 on Dearborn in the center of the city instead of Columbus Drive. The City of Chicago is hosting the NFL draft on the same weekend and massive crowds of teams, players, media and fans are expected to flood the area for the weekend.

The 124th Chicago Polish Constitution Day Parade is in honor of this historic document, the first democratic constitution in Europe and second in the world only to the U.S. Constitution.

Television coverage of the parade will be provided by ABC-7 and Polish stations. The parade route starts on Dearborn from Lake to Van Buren and begins at 11:30 a.m. in Chicago. The Chicago Society Float number and further information will be updated and provided in the April *Forum* and at our website.

PUTIN'S PLAN BACKFIRES?

Radek Sikorski, Poland's parliament speaker, said February 23, 2015, that Russian President Vladimir Putin's support of separatists in eastern Ukraine has backfired on him by stoking greater Ukrainian nationalism elsewhere in the country. Sikorski, Poland's Foreign Minister from 2007 until 2014, has for years been a leading critical voice internationally on Russia.



HUBERT J. CIOROMSKI
President

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or rolech4042@aol.com

DELINQUENT 2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Pursuant to the Chicago Society By Laws, names of members who have not paid their current year's membership dues will be considered delinquent, have their names published in the March *Forum*, and membership suspended until reinstated.

Please contact Chicago Society Financial Secretary Brother **Ryszard Jadczyk** at (847) 639-2327 if you wish to make two installment payments, if you feel your name was listed in error or for payment arrangements. You can pay dues via the Chicago Society PayPal account by credit card or check easily and quickly at <http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html>.

Baczynski, Casey	Olech, Ronald
Bauerle, Joseph	Palka, Tadeusz
Bernardoni, Brian	Pawelko, Tomasz
Bivins, Richard	Pawlowski, Andrew
Cioromski, Hubert	Pieczonka, James
Cizon, Frank	Poplawski, Romuald
Gadzinski, Michael	Putz, Wojciech
Gronkiewicz, Edmund	Sanders, Theodore
Ihsen, Dale	Sawa, Stanley
Kenzer, Gary	Sraga, Les
Kopka, James	Stawski, Stanley
Krajewicz, Leonard	Wojciechowski, John
Krempa, Marcin	Wojcik, William
Laskowski, Slawek	Wrobel, Lukasz
Mance, Robert	Zarnecki, Walter
Mazur, Edward	Zwiercan, Christopher

FEBRUARY 2015 INDUCTION CEREMONY

At the February, 2015, General Meeting, brother **Peter Dykas**, Chicago Society's Director of Personnel, administered the oath of membership to new member Brother **Harold Brown**. After the oath, the entire membership sang *Sto Lat* in honor of our new member with a champagne toast. Congratulations to the newest member of the Chicago Society!

Brother Peter also congratulated Brother **William Drozd**, on his 10 year anniversary as a member, being inducted in February, 2005, and Brother **Frank Gondela** who celebrated 50 years of membership since being inducted in January, 1965.

Finally, Brother Peter recognized all members who celebrate a February birthday.

PMA TO HONOR MARIA CIESLA

On Sunday, March 29, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., the Polish Museum of America (PMA) will celebrate the work of Maria Ciesla, the effervescent wife of Brother **Richard Ciesla**, performed on behalf of the PMA in the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall. (The entire acoustic and sound system for the Hall was made possible by a generous grant from the Chicago Society Foundation in 2013.)

Please call (773) 384-3352, ext. 2111 for a reservation or information by March 23, 2015.

POLISH AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEEDS ASSISTANCE

The Polish American Historical Association (PAHA) needs some assistance! There are Polish film documentarians at the Polish Museum of America (PMA). They are looking for material regarding organized Pol-Am aid to Poland from 1919-1939. There was a film company in Chicago called the Polish American Film company. The PMA has one film of theirs; there was also the Hoffman Film studios from Detroit, which lasted until the early 1960s. There were equivalent companies in Buffalo, the Atlantic Coast, etc. Does anyone have any film clips from that time period? If so, write to janlorys@yahoo.com.

POLAND COULD GET A SCHOOL OF WIZARDRY

Warsaw, Poland (PMN)—Fans of the Harry Potter series and the magical arts have launched a crowdsourcing campaign that aims to bring a College of Wizardry to life, and turn a castle in Poland into a permanent school of sorcery.

Within three days of being posted on crowd-funding site Indiegogo, the College of Wizardry has achieved 38% of its financial goal, raising more than \$19,200 of its initial \$50,000 target.

Following the successful wizarding events first held last year, \$50,000 would fund three four-day retreats for 138 participants who would engage in what's called "live-action role play" (known as LARPing). "Except we have better costumes and more complex stories," explains project coordinator Claus Raasted in a YouTube video.

The event is set to take place at the medieval Czocho Castle in southwestern Poland.



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