



The Forum

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

VOLUME 65

MAY 2014

NUMBER 5

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY

May 21, 2014

6:00 P.M.

Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

by May 19 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

or 847-823-8747

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, June 2, 7:00 P.M.
PNA Home Office

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, May 21, 2014—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Saturday, May 31, 2014—
CS Polish Heritage Film Festival
Stara Baśń -When The Sun Was God
2:00 - PNA, 6100 N. Cicero, Chicago

Wednesday, June 18, 2014—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Friday, August 1, 2014
Golf Outing
Carriage Greens C.C, Darien

THE 2014 GOLF OUTING IS JUST AHEAD

Brothers **Charles Komosa** and **Mark Orwat**, co-chairmen of the Chicago Society's 2014 Golf Outing, invite all members, business associates, their families and friends to reserve their spots for the Chicago Society Golf Outing. The annual event will take place on Friday, August 1, 2014, at the Carriage Greens Country Club located at 8700 Carriage Greens Drive in Darien, Illinois.

The day will begin with a cookout lunch in the outdoor pavilion along with check-in at 10:30 a.m. The Shot-Gun scrambles starts at noon sharp. There will be a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course with free drinks and snacks and other surprises. An open bar and appetizers will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the banquet room, and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The cost is only \$100.00 per person, including golf, cart, cookout lunch, beverages, dinner and cocktails, or \$35.00 per person for those interested in only dinner and cocktails. Yes, we are planning for the world famous grand raffle!

Please call Brother Charles Komosa at 773-286-7123 to reserve your golf foursomes (individual golfers also welcome). Please call if you or your company would like to donate raffle prizes.

Brother **Frank Czaja** has graciously accepted to serve as Tee Sign Sponsorship Chairman. More information about sponsoring a sign will be communicated by Brother Frank shortly. The Tee Sign Hole sponsorship is still only \$100.00. Please call Brother Frank Czaja for more information at 312-520-6144.

CHICAGO SOCIETY'S MAY MEETING SPEAKER

Brother **John Cieslik** has arranged for very own Brother **Jan Plachta**, to be our featured speaker at the May General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at the White Eagle. Brother Plachta is an engineer, who will speak of the accomplishments of another engineer, Ralph Modjewski, who designed many bridges in the United States.

The dinner selection will either be shallot *tarte tatin* with goat's cheese, squash, ricotta & sage pasta bake and fish pie with saffron mash, or mushroom barley soup, mixed greens salad, chicken cutlets, beef slices, oven roasted potatoes, vegetable, kapusta and dessert. Please make reservations with Brother **Chuck Cwiakala** to meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call 847-823-8747.

HISTORICAL ACTION FILM PRESENTED ON MAY 31, 2104

The Polish Heritage Series Spring Film Festival, cosponsored by the Chicago Society PNA, Polish Arts Club of Chicago and the Polish National Alliance, will present *Stara Baśń* ["An Ancient Tale: When the Sun Was God"] on Saturday, May 31, 2014. The film will be screened at 2:00 p.m. in the cafeteria/meeting room of the Polish National Alliance, 6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, Illinois. Tickets are only \$5.00. Coffee and cookies will be served at intermission.

From veteran director Jerzy Hoffman, this film is adapted from the epic novel by Jozef Ignacy Kraszewski. It is the story of the ninth-century Slavic tribes who existed long before the Polish state was formed. Once upon a time, the kingdom was suffering under the rule of mad King Popiel and his cruel wife, the Duchess. When the Duchess foolishly murders the entire ruling assembly to ensure the succession of her son to the throne, the peasants revolt, paving the way for the Piast Dynasty. The film features

— Continued on Page 5 —



CHICAGO
SOCIETY
Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

Dear Brothers,

The annual celebration of the Polish Constitution Day began with a successful Pre-Parade Brunch, held on May 3rd at the Hilton. This year was very special in recognizing and celebrating the canonization of Pope John Paul II. I would like to especially thank our brunch chairman Brother **Ro Matuszczak** and his committee of Brother **Komosa** and their lovely wives Chris Matuszczak and Agata Komosa for their continued help and support in making the brunch a huge success year after year. I would also like to thank Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** for his help in co-chairing the event and his excellent emcee skills and suave in introducing the various VIP's.

We had a very large turnout of organizations, political and civic leaders, members, friends and family. Thank you to all who support and attend the brunch to make it successful every year.

We presented awards to the 3 winners of our scholarship contest. Congratulations again to: 1st place—Adam Rozanek, 2nd place—Alex Almodovar and 3rd place—Samantha Dziadkowicz.

Not too far away is our annual Golf Outing, which will be held at Carriage Greens in Darien, Illinois, on Friday August 1, 2014. This event will be chaired by Brother **Charles Komosa**. Please mark your calendars and inform your friends, family and co-workers about this fun event. Brother Komosa will have more information and the price will still be the same. Brother **Frank Czaja** is our sign chairman.

Fraternally Yours, Brother Mark Orwat



PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE



Dear Brothers,

First and foremost I would like to wish all the females that interact with Chicago Society members a Happy Mother's Day! May has started off to be very busy with the Polish May 3rd Constitution Pre-Parade brunch followed by the parade, and the canonization of Pope John Paul on April 27, 2014.

As the summer winds start to blow in slowly, I would like to invite you to the Polish Heritage Series Spring Film Festival, co-sponsored by the Chicago Society PNA, Polish Arts Club of Chicago and the Polish National Alliance. This month's presentation will be the film *Stara Baśń* ["An Ancient Tale: When the Sun Was God"] on Saturday, May 31, 2014. The film will be screened at 2:00 p.m. Brothers **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert**, **Ted Wiecek** and **Paul Odrobina** have put much thought and hard work into bringing the Polish Heritage Series to fruition. This is an excellent opportunity to invite a friend or family member that is not as mobile as they used to be and treat them to a great movie and maybe dinner afterwards. There are several fine restaurants located near the PNA!

If you have not had enough of social media consider this:

Q: Why is Facebook like jail? A: You have a profile picture, you sit around all day writing on walls, and you get poked by guys you don't really know!

Fraternally, Brother Charles A. Komosa



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AROUND THE SOCIETY!

The Advocates Society and Chicago Bar Association hosted a luncheon in honor of Mr. Wojciech Wegrzyn, Under Secretary of State Ministry of Justice of Poland at the Standard Club in downtown Chicago, as he led an intellectual discussion about the transition of the Polish legal system after the collapse of the communism system. Brother **Steve Rakowski**, Advocate's Society president, welcomed guests and offered opening remarks. Attending were Brothers **Robert Groszek**, **James Pieczonka**, **Mark Kupiec**, **Charles Komosa** and **Ted Makariewicz** with friend Alderman Ray Suarez, Vice Mayor of Chicago

Congratulations to Ms. Katrina Odrobina, daughter of Brother **Paul** and Janice **Odrobina**, on her graduation from Elmhurst College this May. Katrina graduates with a B.A. in Elementary Education and a minor in Middle School Science. Katrina is also a winner of the 2014 Jagiellonian University Summer Scholarship sponsored by the Polish Women's Alliance.

Chicago Society Brothers **Mark Orwat**, **Robert Groszek**, **Rom Poplawski**, **Mark Kupiec** and **Charles Komosa**, attended a fundraiser for Brother **Robert Martwick**, Illinois State Representative of the 19th District at the Gale Street Inn in Jefferson Park. PS: Before I left the house that evening, I told my ten year old son Charley that I was going to a fundraiser for a friend that evening- He asked me, "What is a fundraiser?" I explained it to

him in the easiest terms that I know: "Son, it's like a birthday party- you invite friends over, talk, have fun, eat something and then you get a card with money or a present." Charley's response: "Dad, I want to be a State Representative in Illinois when I finish school!"

Starting off the Polish Constitution May 3rd Parade festivities week was PAPA's 50th Annual Heritage Awards Banquet at the White Eagle. Among the several guests spotted were Chicago Society Brothers **Ronald "Topper" Topczewski**, president emeritus, **Rocky Nowaczyk**, **Jack Skaja**, **John Skaja**, **Paul Odrobina**, **Ted Palka**, **Mitch Pasiewicz**, **Andrew Przybylo**, **Mark Orwat**, **Charles Komosa** and **Robert Martwick**, who read a proclamation he sponsored honoring PAPA on their 50th Anniversary.

Congratulations to past Chicago Society President Brother **Frank Gondela** for being honored and awarded a Certificate of Recognition for his more than 10 years and 2,100 hours of volunteer service at Hines VA Hospital in Illinois at a special Recognition Ceremony Banquet in April. Brother Frank & Beverly Gondela's 8-year-old grandson Kristoffer Diessel, (son of their daughter Denise) was selected to serve as the Principal of the Day at his Grass Lake Elementary School in Antioch, Illinois. Young Kristoffer demonstrated his family inherited leadership skills and read for the kindergarten class.

Condolences to Brother **Robert Groszek** on the loss of his godfather, Stanley Lukasik, who was his personal mentor. He was a judge and a helper of all things Polish, yet a true American. He taught Robert how to help others and how to balance political pressures. Thank

you Stanley Lukasik for shaping Brother Robert Groszek's life!

Jennifer Groszek is coordinating a fundraiser with Brother **Gary Kenzer**, Executive Director of the Polish American Association to benefit the PAA's Women's Shelter. The Garden Party themed soiree will be at the Groszek's home/office/ building located on the corner of Addison and Pulaski in Chicago. Details about the fundraiser will follow soon!

Brother **Ronald "Topper" Topczewski** motored down to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina with his son Charley and his wife Deanne and daughter Arissa, to celebrate his other granddaughter Marina's 22nd birthday.

Post Polish Parade night life included Brothers **Hubert** and **Lori Cioromski**, **Mark Orwat** and an unidentified vixen, and **Robert** and **Jen Groszek** jamming on their air guitars in the VIP balcony section of the Copernicus Center to the music of the famous Polish rock group *Ich Troje*. Who said that Polish beer isn't strong! Word around the campfire is that post-concert Brothers **Mario Mikoda** and **Robert Groszek** reinvented the concept of early morning downtown Chicago Night Clubbing!

The following members marched in the Chicago Society entry for the May 3rd Polish Constitution Day Parade: Brothers **Darek Kozlowski**, **Marian Skawski**, **Frank** and **Darlene Czaja**, **John Cieslik**, **Fred Koziol**, **Richard Kula**, **Walter Pieciewicz**, **Mark Orwat**, President, **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert**, **Terry Przybylski**, **Wojtek Putz** and **Romuald** and **Nicholas Poplawski**, as well as **Ro Matuszczak**. A thank you to all!

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POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PRE-PARADE BRUNCH ROUNDUP

The Chicago Society held its Annual Pre-Parade Brunch celebrating the Polish Constitution at the Hilton Chicago on Saturday, May 3, 2014. Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** introduced Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** to lead the participants at the brunch with the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by the introduction of the Most Reverend Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, who gave the invocation.

Immediately thereafter, President **Mark Orwat** and Scholarship Chairman **Charles Komosa** presented scholarship awards to Adam Rozanek, who received a check for \$3,000.00; Alexander Almodovar, who received \$2,000.00, and Samantha Dziadkowiec, who received \$1,000.00.

Speakers during the brunch were as follows: Ted Czajkowski, Parade Chairman and President of the Alliance of Polish Clubs; Edward Mika, Grand Marshal of the Parade; the Honorable Robert Rusiecki, Acting Consul General of the Republic of Poland; Honorable Andryji Pravednyk, Consul General of Ukraine in Chicago; Illinois Governor Pat Quinn; Brother Member **Frank Spula**, President of the Polish National Alliance and President of the Polish American Congress; Joseph A. Drobot, President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; Senator Mark Kirk; Lisa Madigan, Illinois Attorney General; Judy Baar Topinka, Illinois State Comptroller; **Dan Kotowski**, Illinois State Senator; Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board President; Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Joseph Berrios, Cook County Assessor.

Other notables and guests were as follows: Aldermen "Bob" Fioretti, 2nd Ward; John Arena, 45th Ward; Ariel Reboyras, 30th Ward and Ray Suarez, 31st Ward and Vice Mayor of the City of Chicago. President Dr. Oles Striltschuk of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America-Illinois Division led a contingent of six officials of the Congress; President of the Grant Park Conservancy "Bob" O'Neill; President Anne Morzy and Executive Director Bogdan Puksza of the Polish American Chamber of Commerce Anna Sokolowski, Vice President of the PRCUA and Vice Marshal of the Parade; Dorothy Malachowski, President of the Gift of the Heart Foundation (*Dar Serca*) and Vice Marshal of the Parade; Laurie Nowak, Commissioner of the DuPage County Board; Jolanta Wisnicki of the Polish-Slavic Federal Credit Union; Irene Moskal Del Giudice, President of the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress; a contingent from the

Polish Highlanders, President Andrzej Getek, National Secretary Helena Studenska and Vice President Jozef Cikowski; Aurelia Pucinski, Justice of the Appellate Court; Maryanna Spyropoulos, Commissioner Water Reclamation Department; retired Judge **Francis Gembala**; Brother Member **John Wojciechowski**, Vice President of the Copernicus Foundation; candidate for governor Bruce Rauner and his running mate Evelyn Sangainetti; from the Legion of Young Polish Women, the White and Red Ball debutantes Queen Emilia Rafalik, 1st Runner Up Allison Tomal and 2nd Runner Up, Julia Siemaszko Casiano, and the Queen's Court; Dan Patlak, Commissioner Cook County Board of Review; Officials of Harwood Heights Mayor Arlene Jezierny, Chief Jim Grady, and Trustees **Mark Dobrzycki**, Larry Steiner and Annette Brzezniak Volpe; Illinois State Representative Toni Berrios; Brother **Steven Rakowski**, President of the Advocates Society; Marta Almodovar, Administrator Cook County Judicial Circuit Court; Parade Queen Paulina Soltys, 1st Runner Up Nicolette Cierpida, 2nd Runner Up Kasia Kokocinska and Miss Congeniality Sara Wykrusz; Brother **Andrew Przybylo**, Mayor of Niles; Ewa Holowinski, Treasurer Illinois Division Polish American Congress; Tom Cross, Illinois State Representative and candidate for Illinois State Treasurer; Brother State Representative **Robert Martwick**; Bob Bielinski, Mayor of Wilmette; Barbara Chalko, President Polish Scouting Organization; Maria Ciesla, President of the Polish Museum of America; Karen Yarbrough, Recorder of Deeds Cook County; Kasia Bober; and the Adult Cultural Group from the Cinderella Ball, Cinderella Gabriela Suarez, Prince Charming Jeremiah Stanek, Cinderella Runner Up Martha Guziak and Prince Charming Runner Up Stanislaw Skiwrut; and also Mario Pucharic of Integra Communications.

There were 235 persons present. The Parade stepped off at 11:30 a.m. with 102 units taking part. The Parade was televised on Channel 7. The Chicago Society entry consisted of a marching unit and a float with **Dan Mateja** and IPA Tribute Band.

This was Ro Matuszczak's thirty-seventh year of chairing and involvement with the Parade. Co-chairs were T. Ron Jasinski Herbert, Charles Komosa and Frank Czaja.

Special thanks to Chris Matuszczak, Ro's wife, and Agata Komosa, wife of Charles Komosa, who helped out tremendously and were in charge of the reception desk. It was a well received and successful event.

CHICAGO SOCIETY FOUNDATION MEETING REPORT

On Monday, April 28, 2014, the members of the Chicago Society Foundation Board of Directors met at La Villa Restaurant for the 2nd quarter meeting of 2014. The board voted and approved grants for the Polonia Folk Dance Ensemble in the amount of \$5,000 to underwrite the high cost of producing new folk dance routines, and \$1,000 for the Polish Hunting and Fishing Club to help underwrite their Annual Children's

Fishing Derby to promote a healthy lifestyle and say "No" to drugs, on Sunday, June 1, 2014, at Busse Woods Grove.

Brothers Ro Matuszczak and Mark Orwat represented the Chicago Society Foundation at the Third Annual Northeastern Illinois University Foundation Luncheon celebrating NEIU Foundation Scholarship Donors and Student Recipients at the school Alumni Hall. It is rewarding that the Chicago

Society Foundation is continually honored for its generous grant several years ago!

Brothers **Ro Matuszczak**, **Mark Orwat** and **Charles Komosa** represented the Chicago Society Foundation at a check presentation to Brother **Gary Kenzer**, Executive Director of the Polish American Association for their continued work serving the needs of the less fortunate in Polonia.

PROPOSED FOR CHICAGO SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The following gentleman has applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. If any member has an objection regarding the admission of either of this prospective member, 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: Jon T. Osada
 Address: 5360 N. Lowell #209
 Chicago, IL 60630
 Phone: 773-588-4513
 Occupation: Retired Educator
 Birthdate: February 4, 1946
 Birthplace: Chicago, Illinois
 Education: B.A. English, M.A. English
 Sponsors: Marian Skawski
 and Richard Ciesla

MAY ANNIVERSARY

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate Brother **Daniel Pikarski**, who is celebrating his 15th anniversary and Brother **Joseph Hercik** on his 10th anniversary of inductions in May of their respective years.



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MAY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 3 Wojciech Putz
- 9 Walter Kazmierczak
- 11 Anthony Szplit
- 14 John Domagalski
- 18 Len Krajkiwicz
Ted Wiecek
- 24 Frederick Poska
- 26 Gerhard Kaes
- 31 Zenon Cebula

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POLISH AMERICAN CONGRESS

The Polish American Congress (PAC) will celebrate its 70th Anniversary. Commemorative events will take place on May 30 and 31, 2014, in Buffalo, New York—the city where the PAC was founded seven decades earlier.

On Friday, May 30, celebrations will commence with a special Jubilee Conference focused on the issues of unity and cooperation within the Polish American community. A Gala Dinner will follow later that evening. On Saturday, May 31, the PAC will host a trip to the St. Vincent DePaul RC cemetery in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada, where we plan to visit our Canadian counterparts, representatives of the Polish Canadian Congress. This unprecedented meeting is going to take place in a historic setting "Haller's Cemetery", a Polish military memorial park in Niagara-on-the-Lake, where we plan to honor the memory of the Polish soldiers from the United States and Canada who volunteered to General Haller's "Blue Army."

Deceased Brother **Charles Rozmarek**, co founder and first PAC National President from 1944-1968, was Brother **Charles Komosa's** grandfather. Brother **Frank Spula** currently serves as national PAC President and will be chairing the conference and coordinating the festivities. Brothers **Rom Poplawski**, and **Charles Komosa**, PAC National Directors, and Brother **Mark Orwat** will be taking a road trip together and motor to Buffalo for the 70th Anniversary. Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** also serves as a National PAC Director.

HONOR FLIGHT 54 WITH BROTHER FRANK CZAJA

On April 9, 2014, Brother **Frank Czaja** was fortunate to participate again in The Honor Flight Chicago with his brother bikers. The Honor Flight Chicago's mission is to thank and pay tribute to these heroes—especially our World War II veterans—by bringing them to Washington, D.C., for a day of honor and remembrance at no cost to them. They are also starting to honor our Korean veterans. For more info see their website.

The first thing the returning veterans see is the flag line. This line is composed of bikers from the American Veterans Motorcycle association and a few other groups of bikers. Brother Frank participates in a group organized by the owner, Tina, of the Old Town Pub in Crestwood, Illinois. and her bartender Carla McPhee. Tina has a very strong feeling toward honoring veterans, as do all bikers. So, for each Honor Flight she sponsors a ride from her establishment, at 127th Street and Central. From there the group rides in formation, to Cicero Avenue and then up to Midway Airport. There they meet up with the American Veteran Riders and are issued U.S. flags. They march as a group into the terminal and to the second floor to form the flag line. They cheer the veterans as they pass through and shake each one's hand and thanks him.

This is a heartfelt experience. It is really hard to explain. Perhaps a friend of Czaja's, who is a girl biker, said it the best. She told another girl biker, who was doing this for the first time, to "make sure you have on your waterproof mascara."

There is one Honor Flight a month through October. Brother Frank Czaja will be attending as many as possible. – Great job Brother Frank!

FILM (Continued from Page 1)
 a cast of renowned Polish film stars, including Daniel Olbrychski, Jerzy Trela, and Michal Zebrowski. In Polish with English subtitles.

The high action film was produced by Telewizja Polska [Polish Television] in 2003. It is intended for a mature audience.

**Mark Your Calendar:
 Golf Outing - August 1**

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