



The Forum

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

VOLUME 67

MAY 2016

NUMBER 5

MONTHLY NETWORKING- DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY

MAY 18, 2016

6:00 p.m.

White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

by May 16 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

847-635-0883

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Tuesday, May 31, 2016

7:00 p.m.

PNA Home Office

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 15, 2016–

Monthly Networking /
Dinner Meeting
White Eagle Banquets

Friday, July 15, 2016–

CS Scholarship Golf Outing
Gleneagles Country Club
Lemont, IL
BBQ Lunch 10:30 a.m./
Golf 12:00 p.m.

MAY 2016 SPEAKER & DINNER MEETING

Our speaker at the May General meeting will be Piotr Wolodkowicz, who will speak to us about the Polish Arts Club of Chicago, its history and future. Piotr Wolodkowicz was raised in Poland and is currently living in the U.S.A. since 1981. He came to America when he was 13, lived in L.A. before moving to Chicago with his family. He has been painting and drawing since he was a



little child. His work is in quite a few collections and on display in many businesses in the Chicago metro area and Europe. His art influences are modern artists like Picasso, Andy Warhol, Lucian Freud, and more classical like Serpant, Renoir, Malczewski, and Velazquez. He also loves the art of ancient Egypt and Greece. As a Polish born, yet American raised artist, he has a unique perspective that he incorporates into his work. Traveling the world has broadened and yet fine-tuned the style of his brush. His art reflects his experiences and feelings. While painting and reflecting on life, he desires to show the places and the people that have influenced his understanding of the world. The mysticism of the people, and the uniqueness and depth of the visions are painted in a visually tantalizing fashion. His work can also be seen at his website, <http://www.piotrart.com>

The Polish Arts Club was officially chartered on February 14, 1926, with the following objectives:

- To broaden their knowledge, appreciation, and enjoyment of music, art and literature.
- To render moral and material aid to promising musicians, artists and writers.
- To promote Polish music, art and literature in the United States.

Since 1926, the Polish Arts Club of Chicago has initiated and promoted a wide variety of events, including public lectures on music, art, literature drama and history by authorities in their respective fields; concerts and exhibitions, and many others.

The PACC's longest running event is the Annual Exhibition of Painting and Sculpture. The first Exhibition was held in 1933. Since that time the Club has hosted a total of 74 annual Exhibitions, and it has grown to become the prominent art exhibition in the Chicagoland Area.

Continued on p. 2 ►



CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications
Mark Pasieka

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The May *Forum* was prepared by Brother Charles Komosa & Brother Mark Pasieka; layout by Brother Ted Wiecek

Visit Our Website At

www.chicagosocietypna.org

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MEETING RESERVATION?
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RESERVATION BY EMAILING
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org**

Dear Brothers,

It is hard to believe that we have reached the half way point of my second term in office. The reason I mention this is not only do we have our presidential election in November, which will take this country in another direction, but just as important to our community, we have the Chicago Society's election. It is crucial that we have strong leadership to guide our Society during these changing times of low attendance and an older membership. Therefore, if any one would be interested in a position as an officer or director, please see me during one of our upcoming general meetings to discuss this matter. We need a mix of new members with new ideas and enthusiasm to blend with our senior members in order for the Society to be relevant in the future.

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**



The Chicago Society again, proved it is one of the preeminent organizations in Polonia by successfully hosting the sold out 39th Annual Pre-Parade Brunch for Chicago's 125th Anniversary of the Polish Constitution Day Parade. Chairman Brother **Ro Matuszczak** was honored by his co-chair Brother **Charles Komosa** and the president of the Polish National Alliance, Brother **Frank Spula** for Brother Ro's 39 years of service to the Pre-Parade Brunch with a beautiful crystal decanter for Brother Ro's favorite alcoholic spirit. I would also acknowledge Chris Matuszczak and Agata Komosa for their expertise in handling the sometimes difficult reservation table at the brunch.

We are entering our summer months activities beginning with our annual golf outing to be held on July 15, 2016 at Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont, Illinois. Brother Charles Komosa will chair the event with Brother Mark Orwat, and Brother Frank Czaja as our sign chairman. The course is challenging and Brother Komosa is guaranteeing good weather. This is an event to invite your clients and friends out for a relaxing afternoon of golf and to have a few libations at the 19th hole. I hope to see you all there!

Fraternally,
Brother Ted Makarewicz

MAY SPEAKER ◀ *continued from p. 1*

The Polish Arts Club of Chicago now includes all generations of Americans of Polish ancestry who have taken their place in American society and at the same time support and bring their Polish culture to the arts.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at the White Eagle. The April General Meeting not only offers great camaraderie, a featured speaker, but a delicious dinner menu! The dinner menu includes house salad, European bread basket, breaded chicken cutlet, beef brisket, oven-roasted potatoes, garden-blend vegetables, dessert, coffee or tea.

For reservations call Brother Ro Matuszczak at 847-635-0883 or email meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

CHICAGO SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MAY 3RD POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PRE-PARADE BRUNCH

The Chicago Society held its Annual Pre-Parade Brunch celebrating the Polish Constitution at the Hotel Allegro on Saturday, May 7, 2016. Brother **Ro Matuszczak**, Chairman, opened the brunch and introduced his Co-Chair Charles Komosa. President **Ted Makarewicz** welcomed the guests and introduced Brother **Mark Pasieka** to lead the participants in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by the introduction of the Most Reverend Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, who gave the invocation. Next, President Ted Makarewicz and Scholarship Chairman and Vice President **Robert Groszek** presented scholarship awards to Daniela Nicole Kapusta: \$3,000, Joanna Bajena: \$2,000—both were present—and \$1,000 to Jessie Jendzejec. There were over 250 persons present. It was sold out three weeks before the event.

Speakers during the brunch were as follows: Jan Kopec, Parade Committee Chairman and President of the Alliance of Polish Clubs; Grand Marshal Jan Krawiec; Ambassador to the United States from Poland, the Honorable Ryszard Schnepf; Brother **Frank Spula**, President of the Polish National Alliance and Polish American Congress; Brother **Joseph Drobot, Jr.**, President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; U.S. Senator Mark Kirk; U.S. Congressmen Bob Dold and Dan Lipkowski; Congressman Mike Quigley was present but had to leave early; Illinois Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanginetti; Illinois State Comptroller Leslie Geissler Munger; Honorable Timothy Evans, Chief Judge Circuit Court of Cook County; Susana Mendota. Also present were the Vice Marshal, Lucyna Migala; visitor from Poland, the Honorable Anna Cichorska, Representative to the Parliament from the District of Ciechanow; also from Poland, Franciszek Adamczyk, former Polish Consul in Chicago and Senator in Poland; Treasurer Marian Grabowski of the Polish National Alliance; Arie Zweig, Chairman of POL-PAC; Marta Almodovar, Administrator-Cook County Judicial Court; Brother **Robert Radkowski**, Vice President Head of the Midwest District, Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union; Judges Diann Marsalek, James Pieczonka and Thaddeus Machnik; Vera Eliashevsky, Ukrainian Congress Committee; Parade Queen Ada Ezlakowska, 1st Runner-up Gabriela Sokolowska, 3rd Runner-up Aleksandra Kozakiewicz; Ewa Prokop, Executive Director Polish American Association; Barbara Chalko, President Polish Scouting Organization; Irene Moskal Del Giudice, Past President Illinois Division Polish American Congress; PRCUA Vice President Micheline Jaminski and Secretary/Treasurer James Robaczewski; Polish American Chamber of Commerce President Anna Morzy, Bogdan Pukszta, Executive Director and Slawek Wysocki, Treasurer; Polish Highlanders of America President Jozef Cikowski, Vice Presidents Zofia Bobak and Zdzislaw Dorula and Treasurer Jozef Lon; Hon. Diane Shapiro, Republican Candidate for Circuit Court Clerk; Hon. Arlene Jezierny, President of Harwood Heights and Trustees Terry Schnepfer, Annette Brzezniak Volpe, Larry Steiner and Mark Dobrzycki; Kinga Aleksandrowicz, Outreach Coordinator, Office of Bruce Rauner; Dan Patlak, Commissioner Cook County Board of Reviews; Legion of Young Polish Women President Bozenna Haszlakiewicz and the Queen of the 2016 White and Red Ball (Bal Amarantowy) Alexandra Winsor, 1st Runner-up Natalie Wytrzymalski and 2nd Runner-up Claudia Mazur. From the Adult Cultural Club Cinderella Ball, Cinderella Olivia Cislo, Prince Charming John Slubowski and Runners-up Kayla Leonhard and Sam Wagner and President Edward Muszalski; Aldermen present were Ariel Reboyras, 30th Ward; Gilbert Villegas, 36th Ward; John Arena, 45th Ward; Christopher Talafiero, 29th Ward and Alderman Milly Santiago, 31st Ward. Also present were Bogdan Dola, President Polish American Foundation; Joanne Cholewinska, representing the Illinois Division Polish American Congress; Marta Ptaszynska of Pol Vision and host of Polskie Radio 1030 AM (Polish Radio); Slawomir Budzik, radio announcer Program Deon 1080 AM; Barret Pedersen, Mayor of Franklin Park; President of the Advocates Society, Matthew Sidor, 1st Vice President Marta Zaborska and Secretary Kasia Kaczmarek; Maria Ciesla, Past President Polish Museum of America; John Wojciechowski, Vice President Copernicus Foundation; Trustee of Leyden Township Mick Taiafa; from New Jersey Edward Pierwola, Supervisory Committee Member Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union.



President Ted Makarewicz, Co-Chair Charles Komosa, and Brunch Chairman Ro Matuszczak greet the guests at the Brunch.

PRE-PARADE BRUNCH ◀ *continued from p. 3*

The Parade stepped off at 11:15 a.m. and proceeded on State Street from Lake Street to Van Buren. The Chicago Society entry consisted of a marching unit and float with the Bula Boys Band. Marching with the Society were: Brothers **Mike Drapko, Mark Orwat, Paul Koontz, Mark Pasiaka** with his wife Renata and children Emma, Angelina, and Mark Jr., **Terry Przybylski, Andrew Zapalski, Walter Piecewicz, Mario Mikoda, Ted Wiecek**, and friends Miroslaw Antos, Karen Kang, Ela Kuta, Janina and Michelle Muszynski.

This was Ro Matuszczak's 39th year as Chairman and 20th year as a member of the Parade Committee. Special thanks to Chris Matuszczak, Ro's wife, and Agata Komosa, wife of Co-Chairman Brother Charles Komosa. "Kudos" to Co-Chair Brother Charles Komosa for his efforts on behalf of the Chicago Society.



Photo courtesy of Teresa Potasiak

CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The 1st place winner is Daniela Nicole Kapusta, currently enrolled at Illinois State University and from Geneva Illinois. She was awarded \$3000.



The 2nd Place winner is Joanna Bajena, currently enrolled at Roosevelt University with a Major of Classical Guitar Performance and living in Des Plaines Illinois. She was awarded \$2000.

The 3rd Place winner is Jessie Jendzejec who is currently enrolled at Rhode Island College with a major of Nursing and living in Smithfield, RI. She was awarded \$1000.



Joanna Bajena and Daniela Nichole Kapusta with their awarded scholarships

Essays of the winners will be published in subsequent issues of The Forum

BROTHER "RO" HONORED ... TWICE!

Brother Romuald "Ro" Matuszczak was honored for his work on behalf of the Polish Constitution Day Parade not once but twice.

At the Pre-Parade Brunch, PNA President Brother **Frank Spula** and National Secretary Brother **Charles Komosa** honored him as Member of the PNA Honor Society and presented with a decanter suitable for his favorite "adult beverage" (think "little water") in recognition of all of Ro's hard work: 39 years as brunch chairman, 64 years as CS member, almost 76 years as PNA member (since November 1940). The inscription on the decanter read:



Charles Komosa and Frank Spula award Ro Matuszczak

*To Mr. Chicago Society
Romuald "Ro" Matuszczak
For dedicated service to the
Community, Lodge 1450 and PNA
Polish National Alliance
May 2016*

That evening at the Banquet celebrating Polish Constitution Day, Brother Ro was honored with the Appreciation Award. He was presented a plaque with the following inscription:



*Dedicated Service
awarded to Romuald "Ro" Matuszczak
in recognition of your years of service
Thank you for giving your time with
loyalty and dedication
The Polish Constitution Day Parade
Committee
May 7, 2016*

Our congratulations to "Mr. Chicago Society" for two well-deserved honors.

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FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016, CS SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING IS FAST APPROACHING!

The Chicago Society 2016 Annual Scholarship Golf Outing is right around the corner and Chairman Brother **Charles Komosa** is still keeping this outstanding outing at a reasonable price of \$100.00 per golfer with many amenities. Brothers Charles Komosa and **Mark Orwat**, co-chairmen of the Chicago Society's 2016 Golf Outing, invite all members, business associates, family, and friends to reserve their spots for the Outing. The Chicago Society Golf outing will be held at the swanky Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont, on Friday, July 15, 2016, at Gleneagles Country Club located at 13070 McCarthy Road in Lemont, Illinois. The day will begin with check-in at 11:30 a.m., then a cookout lunch including brats, Italian sausage, chips and draft beer in the outdoor pavilion. The Shot-Gun scramble starts at 1:00 p.m. sharp. There will be a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course with free drinks, snacks and other surprises.



The day will conclude with an open bar and appetizers, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the banquet room, with dinner including BBQ ribs, chicken, and side dishes, with a program and prizes following. 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 premium 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 Chairman and for raffle prize donations. The Tee Sign Hole sponsorship is still only \$100.00. Please call Brother Frank Czaja for more information at 312-520-6144. Please see the insert on this May Forum for the Tee Sign contract.

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Celebrating Home Fundraiser! Brother **Robert & Jennifer Groszek** are hosting their 3rd Annual Garden Party Fundraiser benefiting the Lydia Home Association/Safe Families on Thursday, July 14, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in their parking lot—which they convert into a cool oasis—located at 3601 North Pulaski Road, Chicago, Illinois. The event will include an Art Auction, Live Music, Wine, Spirits, and hors d'oeuvres. For tickets, sponsorships, or more information, please call Jennifer Groszek at 219-743-5977.

Super Volunteer! On April 13, 2016, Edward Hines VA Hospital Department of Veterans Affairs presented an Award of Voluntary Service Certificate to Brother **Frank Gondela** in appreciation of 2,500 hours and 12 years of service to United States Veterans at a banquet/luncheon at the Brookfield Zoo Auditorium. Congratulations!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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



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

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CHICAGO SOCIETY FOUNDATION MEETING REVIEW

The Chicago Society Foundation met for its Quarterly Board of Directors meeting on Monday, April 25, 2016 at LaVilla Banquets in Chicago. Foundation Executive Vice President Brother Pieciewicz served as chairman pro temp for the meeting. A grant of \$1,000.00 was approved for the Donald Gutowski Scholarship Foundation administered by the Polish Women's Civic Club. A grant was awarded by the CSF to Mr. Wojtek Sawa, founder of the Wall Speaks Project in 2014, a \$1,000.00 grant was given initially and the remaining \$4,000.00 was awarded in 2016 upon submission of a financial statement by the organization. The Foundation's total assets are \$654,659.05 as of April 25, 2016. The total assets for the Foundation increased by 48% due to a significant donation of \$314,912.23 from the Brother James Kulze Endowment, with his wish that it be used for educational scholarships. The next meeting of the CSF will be on Monday, July 25, 2016 at Smakosz Polish Restaurant in Chicago.

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate:

Brother John Domagalski, celebrating his 25th Anniversary of induction into the Chicago Society;

Brother Willaim Sawicki, celebrating his 20th Anniversary of induction into the Chicago Society;

and Brother Andrew Zapalski, celebrating his 15th Anniversary of induction into the Chicago Society!

**Summer dress code-
business casual (coat not required)-
is in effect May to September**



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