BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH!

In the Roman calendar the *ides of March* fell on the 15th day of the Roman month of *Martius* (although it should be noted that this would correspond to March 14 today due to differences in the way that the months were calculated). The Ides was an auspicious day in the Roman calendar, falling not only on the 15th of March, but also May, July and October and on the 13th of the other months.

The date is famous because *Julius Caesar* was assassinated on the Ides of March in 44 BC. According to the Roman writer *Plutarch*, Caesar had been warned of the danger but had disregarded the warning: What is still more extraordinary, that a certain soothsayer forewarned him of a great danger which threatened him on the Ides of March. When the day was dawning, as he was going to the senate-house, he called to the soothsayer and said, laughing, “The Ides of March are come”; to which the soothsayer answered softly, “Yes: but they are not gone.”

The soothsayer’s warning to Julius Caesar, “Beware the Ides of March,” has forever imbued that date with a sense of foreboding. But in Roman times the expression “Ides of March” did not necessarily evoke a dark mood—it was simply the standard way of saying “March 15.” Does such a fanciful expression signify something more than merely another day of the year? Sixteen centuries later, audiences attending *William Shakespeare*’s play *Julius Caesar* wouldn’t have blinked twice upon hearing the date called the Ides.

The expression (this month’s headline) does signify something special to Chicago Society members. March 15 plus three more days hence is the date for this month’s meeting. What CS members should heed— not necessarily from a certain soothsayer, but from the Board of Directors—is the announcement: “Beware of missing a good night out at the club on the 18th.” As Ah Ching would proclaim, “Please read the rest of page 1.”

IN MARCHES THE MARCH MEETING

The March Meeting will feature from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Development Robert Anderson, principal of Robert Anderson & Associates. The Board of Directors will give its Marching Orders to all members who fail to RSVP for the meal in a timely manner. The membership is encouraged to support the monthly lecture, dinner, and meeting. This month’s meeting is *chez Sawa* on the northwest corner of Cermak Road and 17th Avenue.

During the February meeting, Ron Olech, by passing out an informational sheet from Edward Jones®, did a fine job presenting his topic of income tax procedures for 2008 and for 2009. Many members asked questions. Fifty-six men showed up for dinner although only forty-five responded. That ratio was still not good enough. Better communication must be achieved!

The raffle winners were Stan Ross, Ron Wolosewicz, and Bill Sufranski. As usual the salon emptied out leaving a dozen men and then six men remained deep in conversation and/or libations. The sixth man left at 10:15 only to find the parking lot covered with a light coating of snow and a heavy coating of ice on his car. The five continued.

WHERE’S THE BEEF? WHO’S GOT THE BEEF?

Is it the Teriyaki Boyz (read: Japanese hip hop)? Is it still Wendy’s? The beef was in the Stock Yards on the south side for a century, but the businesses were phased out decades ago. There’s little to beef about as The Club has the answer to those questions. “Where’s the beef?” is a catch phrase, which has, since its first usage on January 10, 1984, become a somewhat universal, all-purpose phrase questioning the substance of an idea, event or product.

—Continued on page 3—
THE PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers:

I would like to extend to you a belated Happy Casimir Pulaski Day. The other day, I was reviewing the special Pledge of Allegiance that we read before our general meeting and I realized how powerful the statement: “Pulaski gave his life for us.”

I know that we are proud Polish Americans everyday and not only on Pulaski Day or the May 3rd Polish Constitution Day Parade. Faith, courage, freedom and pride of heritage and culture constitute the nucleus that keeps us together as a community and members of our respective Polish American organizations. Let’s unite and not fight. A solid front line is the only way to earn a deeper respect from the other ethnic communities in the “Chicago Fishbowl of Politics and Culture.”

Many of you have sponsored new Chicago Society members over the last two years. I encourage you to call these new members and invite them out to our meetings and participate in our events, like the Couples Corned Beef and Cabbage on March 12 and the Polish Constitution Pre-Parade Brunch on Saturday, May 2, 2009. The attendance at the February meeting was very encouraging and if we bring out our new members, it will energize, charge and refresh the ranks and meetings.

I wish you and your family much health, happiness and unity during Lent and throughout the entire year.

Fraternally,
Charles Komosa

March is the most contentious time of the year here at The Club, as it is the deadline for paying this year’s dues, and some members each year fail to abide. To illustrate the point of payment – to the county the collection of property tax for real estate held by you is important. The money goes for funding various entities. Your house will be sold eventually for back taxes if you do not pay on time.

To The Chicago Society the collection of dues for membership is important, too. This money goes for funding our charitable bequests and our operating expenses, which include the complimentary dinner you receive ten months of the year. The officers have to make ends meet. The Financial Secretary expects you to send a check promptly and to keep abreast of your eligibility of membership. Suspension hovers over those men who do not pay promptly.

At the March Board Meeting the officers and directors agreed on the use of a plan for this year which would assist those members who are currently experiencing financial difficulties due to the economic climate. Anthony Szplit, the Financial Director, will accept the payment of dues in two equal parts at two times of 2009 instead of the entire part, which is due immediately. He is here to help those members having a hardship in paying the dues on time, if not at all. Please contact him to hear of this plan and to learn the steps with which to implement it.

The last day for material recommended by someone for use in the Forum for the month following a current month is the day of the Board Meeting for that following month, the date of which always appears in the box on the left hand side of page 1. Information, legibly handwritten or typed, may be delivered by hand or by U.S. Post Office mail carrier, but the preferred recommended method is by e-mail and/or with the message on Microsoft Word using the font Times New Roman regular size 12 allowing one space between sentences. Members, officers, directors, and committee/event chairmen and/or their representatives are advised to submit material ahead of that date from as early as a few days before the deadline (stated in sentence one) to a few weeks before the deadline in order to insure that the information will be available for me to consider and to prepare for its inclusion.
WHERE’S THE BEEF? (Continued from page 1)

Event – that’s with what The Club is concerned. The Chicago Society of the P.N.A. is holding a Couple’s and Friends Corned Beef and Cabbage (read: Kapusta) Dinner on Thursday, March 12, 2009 (which falls during the second week of the month) at the Copernicus Foundation, located on the north side of the street on the corner, at 5216 W. Lawrence Avenue, between the Kennedy Expressway and Milwaukee Avenue. Parking is free in the adjoining lot. The Blue Line and the Metra stations are two short blocks to the north. Members are welcome between the Kennedy Expressway and Milwaukee Avenue. Parking is free in the adjoining lot.

It’s a boy! Chris and Ro Matuszczak were awakened at 3:00 a.m. on Monday, February 16, by Chris’ son, Tyler Wells, with news that they would shortly be grandparents again. Andrew Joseph Wells was born within the half hour. There are now two grandchildren added from the Wells family to the Matuszczak clan totaling 9 boys and 2 girls! Andrew is little brother to Julia, who is now two years old.

Chris immediately booked a flight to Houston to visit the new grandson and help out.

Matthew Kubistant had a marvelous trip to Washington D.C. with The Honor Flight Network/Serving World War II Veterans. The national organization takes WWII veterans to see the monument built in their honor. The WWII Memorial opened in 2004 to recognize the 16 million who served in the United States Armed Forces during the war, as well as the 400,000 who died and all who supported the war effort from home. Set upon 7.4 acres between the Washington and Lincoln monuments, the memorial features two pavilions, 86 granite pillars, and the 84-foot Freedom Wall with 4,000 gold stars honoring the fallen.

The first flight occurred in 2005. Today, the organization has 73 hubs in 31 states and expects to carry 10,000 veterans to the capital in a year’s span. Volunteer escorts and medical professionals accompany each group with wheelchairs and oxygen tanks for veterans in need. Interested veterans and volunteers can access information via the Internet at the website <http://www.honorflight.org> or by calling (937) 521-2400.

An elegant group of guests assembled at the consulate on Lake Shore Drive for the 25th Anniversary Gala of the Chicago chapter of the Kociszewko Foundation. The Board of Trustees of the New York based Foundation, along with participants from other parts of the country besides Manhattan, were introduced.

The program consisted of Recognition Awards to, Zygmunt Dyrkacz, Founder and President of Chopin Theatre; Krzysztof Kamyszew, Founder and President of the Society for the Arts and the Polish Film Festival in America; Lucyna Migala, Founder and President of the Lira Ensemble; and Mira Puacz, —Continued on page 4—
SCENE (Continued from page 3)
Proprietor of the Polonia Book store; and speeches and announcements. Pawel Checinski performed on the piano. Dinner followed.

Seen at this scene were Dee and Ed Blicharski, Czeswala and Jim Kolak, Thad Makarewicz, Robert Maycan, Szymon Placzkiewicz and Stephen Rajsik with Conrad Miczko, Stasia Rawicka, Danuta and Michael Schneider, Frank Spula (who delivered a well executed speech and toast), Jola and Stephan Szefer, and Alice Tondryk.

The Polish Museum of America celebrated its main fund-raiser of the year, themed “The Literary and Documentary Treasures”. The guests, many in black-tie, perused the Archives, Library and Adopt a Book, Photo, Arts, Graphic Arts and Save the Book Music Chives, Library and Save the Book, Music and Documentary Treasures”. The Paderewski Room under its main fund-raiser of the year, themed “The Literary and Documentary Treasures”. The guests, many in black-tie, perused the Archives, Library and Adopt a Book, Photo, Arts, Graphic Arts and Save the Book Music Collections. The Paderewski Room under renovation was opened to select people. The gift shop was open.

Enjoying the gourmet dinner and music selections were Dee and Ed Blicharski, Maria Ciesla, Alicia and Robert Dutka, Shirley Dudzinski, Edmund Gronkiewicz, Czeslawa and Jim Kolak, Camille Kopielski, Maria and Joan Kosinski, Conrad Miczko, Paul Odrobina, Jo Ann and Wallace Ozog, Walter Sojka, Frank Spula.

The parking lot of the posh private Ruth Lake Country Club in Hinsdale was filled, but it couldn’t be golfers’ cars as it was snowing that day. It was the Polish Women’s Civic Club Christmas Luncheon that filled the property. A fashion show of furs and a raffle put the gifts to the dinner. Dinner followed.

In a festive mood were Alicia and Bob Rutka (the latter forming musically), Kirk Schaaf and Camille Einoder, Lucille Gutowski, Camille Kopielski, Helen Marcyan, Conrad Miczko and Edward Matuza, Barbara Miller, Janice and Paul Odrobina, Martha with her two daughters, Renée, Jeannine and Edmund Okonek, Jo Ann and Wallace Ozog, Anna Piecewicz, Virginia Sikora, Teresa and Marian Skawski, Alice Tondryk, Christine and Ron Wolosewicz, and prospective Brother Joseph Zurawski and his wife.

Condolences are extended to Jan and Mark Kupiec on the passing of Jan’s sister, Kathleen M. Burns. She was 51. Edward Matuza caught the autumn colors as he vacationed in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, the closet spot between America and Europe and where some of the world’s tallest tides form.

The Polonia Dance Ensemble will present an authentic, energetic program providing a true essence of Polish music, dance, folk games and customs on Sunday, March 29 at 2 p.m. at Triton College in River Grove. This unique performance is filled with beautiful whirling colors of handmade costumes and the melodic tune of the Polish culture. Information is at (708) 456-0300 ext. 3757.

Fred Koziol, wearing a full length grayish tone fur coat, dropped in for a few minutes at the Inaugural Ball. Who is your furrier, Fred? This reporter attended the lecture and book signing by Dan Pogorzelski in conjunction with the Jefferson Park Historical Society lecture and slide presentation at the Jefferson Park Library. Dan is the author of the new book "Portal Park."

Peter Dykas was seen searching for a sports agent for his one year old son Matthew as he claims the boy is a natural future baseball star. Rom Poplawski jetted for his wind-energy business to Cypress, Greece, Poland, Hungary and Romania. Marlene and Ken Gill have purchased a home (for winter use at the moment) in Surprise/Sun City West located northwest of Phoenix. They will put up for sale their northwest side Chicago home and their Pell Lake, Wisconsin home.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Friends:
We are pleased to announce that the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago is seeking candidates for the first two of three endowed faculty chairs provided through the generosity of Romuald Hejna’s estate gift. We are honored to have been given the opportunity by Mr. Hejna to build a strong and highly regarded program in Polish Studies that ensures high quality teaching and research well into the future.

If you know candidates that might be eligible, please feel free to share the attached position description. Direct all questions regarding these positions to Marsha Figaro, the Dean’s Chief of Staff at the address in the posting.

Best regards,
Chick Coughlin
Associate Dean for Advancement
University of Illinois at Chicago
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
601 S. Morgan St.
801 UH, M/C228
Chicago, Illinois 60607
(312) 413-3469 voice
(312) 996-9839 fax

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

The Chicago Society of the P.N.A. thanks the following members, who are celebrating the anniversary of their induction this month, for their many years of membership:

Pacyniak, Bernard 1999 10 Years
Rzesiwi, Lawrence 1999 10 Years

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE ON THURSDAY, MARCH 12

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THE 2009 CHICAGO SOCIETY INAUGURAL BALL

Ball guests from Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Ro Matuszczak, Bill Powell and Mario Mikoda

Bill Drozd and T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert


Inaugural Ball guests dancing the night away to the music of Anthony Kawalkowski

Enjoying conversation and a libation
2009 INAUGURAL BALL A SOCIAL SUCCESS

Still going strong for almost a century, The Club held its annual Inaugural Ball on Saturday, January 27, 2009. The Chicago Society of the P.N.A. faithful and other chic non-members from Chicagoland, with some from as far north as Lake Forest and even farther from Milwaukee, Wisconsin and from as far northwest as West Dundee and Barrington and from as far southeast as South Bend, Indiana and from as far east as Center Line, Michigan and from as far southwest as East Peoria, celebrated the Lodge’s 97th Inaugural Ball at Café La Cave, an award-winning restaurant and banquet Ballroom, on North Mannheim Road.

General Chairman and Master of Ceremonies, Conrad Miczko, welcomed the guest. Melding seamlessly into a fabric of glitz, the well-dressed group was greeted with glasses of bubbly champagne, sipped expensive brand cocktails from the open bar, and sampled hot and cold hors d’oeuvres.

Tables draped to the floor in luxurious gold patterned linen with pin-spot lighting to highlight the centerpieces of roses, other flowers, and greens on a mirror surrounded by votive candles enticed the guests to be seated. The dinner entrées of cream of potato leek soup, Caesar salad, broiled filet mignon on bordelaise sauce with lobster mousse stuffed with Dover sole over saffron rice, whipped potatoes with seasonal vegetables, and fallen chocolate soufflé were then enjoyed as hors d’oeuvres.

The floor was packed but always comfortable for maneuvering couples, who even had to continue their counter-clock wise movement on the wall to wall carpet.


The prizes for best functioning/most pleasant to deal with Table Captains, if there had been any, would have gone to Ronald Nawrocki, Maria Ciesla, Edward Matuga, Joan Kosinski, Robert Groszek, and Marian Skawski. Conrad functioned according to the recommendation of the Booster Award for having sponsored to induction the most votes printed months earlier in the “Table Captains” article in the Forum, but since he was the chairman, he removed himself from consideration of such an honor. T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert was the first winner.

—Continued on page 8—

MARCH IS DEADLINE FOR DUES PAYMENT

March 1, 2009, was the cutoff date for payment of a member’s 2009 dues without being considered delinquent. In accordance with the Chicago Society Constitution and the approval of the Board of Directors, Financial Secretary Anthony Szplit is required to prepare a list of those who will be removed from the roster unless dues are paid by April 1, 2009.

A 50-50 payment plan is available this year by contacting the Financial Secretary. After April 1, a member must submit a new membership application, current dues and a fee of $50 to obtain reinstatement. The application must then be approved by the Board of Directors.

Dues should be sent to Tony Szplit, Financial Secretary, 3833 N. Christiana Ave., Chicago, IL 60618.
LEARNING ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

This month’s Know Your Brother column is about Stanley Wladyslaw Sawa.
He explains his career and views in the following words:

After leaving the family restaurant business in 1981, I went into sales to make a living. I took a job for a concrete repair company and learned concrete raising, concrete restoration, as well as basement and foundation repair.

I worked several years for a few general contractors, selling everything from concrete mud jacking and new concrete construction, to tuck pointing, masonry repair and remodeling. I had the opportunity to sell repair work to a gentleman who was a professional Home Inspector. He told me he was one of the Charter Members of ASHI (the American Society of Home Inspectors). I was intrigued by his story of inspecting homes to find problems for home buyers, as I was already evaluating homes in a sense for repairs that were needed. I thought to myself that I could do this.

I knew I would need some training and experience in other areas, but found out really quickly that people in the inspection business were not enthusiastic about training their competition. I had to find some sort of schooling. In the spring of 1987, I attended an intensive Home Inspectors Course in Falls Church, Virginia, just outside of Washington D.C. Monday through Friday that week. I assisted on two to three Home Inspections a day along with taking up to 5 hours of classroom work each evening. I became convinced that I could start my own business. It took some time developing a report system and business plan (help was non-existent), but I knew it could be done. I talked to many friends and many gave support, some not, but in life you must “Go with your Gut”.

In 1988 I incorporated, set some yellow page advertising in motion (didn’t do my 1st inspection until 1989), and the rest is history. The American Society of Home Inspectors accepted me as a fully accredited Member in 1993. This was only accomplished after doing a required 700 fee paid inspections (I already had over 1,000) and passing three 2 hour “National Home Inspector” exams.

Over the last 20 years I have had the pleasure of doing numerous inspections for Chicago Society Members and their families, for which I am forever grateful. I am always ready and available to be of assistance to any Member for advice on buying or selling his home or for any help with maladies that will always come up from time to time in our homes.

Success only comes with the help and support of others in your life. I never would have been able to accomplish any success without the support and understanding of my loving wife Mary of the past 25 years. She has not only been my best friend and mother of our children, but an intricate part of our business. I never would have been able to serve as The Club’s Past President without the compassion of a lifelong companion. I’m grateful to have had the opportunity to share these facts with the membership.
INAUGURAL BALL  (Continued from page 6)

person to send in his RSVP card with a check.

Randy Sutter, proprietor of the establishment, complimented the committee on orchestrating another great and equally perfectly arranged event. Many guests stopped at the chairman’s table to echo that same comment. Committee members included Beverly and Frank Gondela, Robert Groszek, Violet Gierczynski, Tony Kawalkowski, Marian Skawski, Randy Sutter, Mary Lou Tworkowski, Walter Wojtowicz, and Richard Zabelski.

It was a regal soirée as many adhered to the dress code, a few traveled in a counter-clockwise circle around the dance floor, the majority reserved and paid on time, dozens complimented the fine quality of the meal, many were in awe over the centerpieces, and many stayed until the end, savoring the camaraderie of their fellow guests, the distinct ballroom lighting, the get-up-and dance music, and the quality of the beverages. It was a night to remember, and an event to make the Chicago Society proud and respected.