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 imbedded 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 two more days hence is the date for this month’s meeting. Yes, it’s March 17, and members may wear green. 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 17th.” As Ah Ching would proclaim, “Please read the rest of page 1.”

IN MARCHES THE MARCH MEETING BY TELLING TAXING TIDBITS

The first 2010 decision to cement is to attend on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, the General Meeting featuring a hot complimentary family style sit-down dinner (there will be a cash bar) and lecture at the White Eagle Banquet Halls in Niles. Lots of free parking is available in three lots.

The speaker for March’s General Meeting will be Chicago Society Member Ron Olech, the membership’s income tax expert. Ron is a CPA and has held various offices with the Chicago Society. He is the accountant for the Chicago Society Foundation and a past chairman of the Scholarship Committee.

Brother Olech will speak on Income Tax changes and what is new for the 2009-year return. If time permits, he may give an insight as to what’s new for 2010 returns.

General questions will be accepted. Personal questions can be addressed to Ron by making an appointment with him. Ron is well versed in individual and company tax preparation.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2010 DUES?
DON'T BE A NAME ON THE DELINQUENCY LIST
from the editor's pen

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers:

March is an eventful month for the Polish American Community and it started off with the Annual Pulaski Day Celebration at the Polish Museum of America chaired by Brother Wallace Ozog, President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America (PRCUA).

On Saturday, March 13, the Legion of Young Polish Women will host the 71st White and Red Ball in the Grand Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton and Towers—My wife Agata and I, Maria and Brother Richard Ciesla, Brother Marian and Teresa (Ball chairperson) Skawski, and Brother Conrad Miczko will be performing the Polonaise with a total of sixteen couples during the Ball. Lucille Gutowski, Polonaise chairperson, runs a tight practice schedule every Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. at the White Eagle.

This month on March 19 many Polish Americans celebrate the Feast of St. Joseph with family and the sharing of food with the needy in our community. I extend warm wishes to all our Brother Members that share St. Joseph’s Names Day.

At our February meeting it was vigorously discussed and approved to change the monthly meeting dress code to business casual for the entire year. The summer dress code from June through September is still in effect and is more casual than the other months.

Last month on February 15, 2010, the Polish National Alliance (PNA) marked 130 years in existence being founded that same day in 1880 in Philadelphia, Pa. I am proud that my family, starting with my great grandfather, Jan Rozmarek, an immigrant coalminer from Poland, who settled in Wilkes Barre, Pa., joined the PNA in the 1920s and my grandfather, Charles Rozmarek, a Chicago Society member, served as National President of the PNA from September, 1939, through September, 1967, with my two children, Charles and Alexander, make our family five generations strong in the PNA.

Have a Blessed Easter with your family on Sunday, April 5!

Fraternally,
Charles A. 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. The second 2010 decision to cement is to pay your dues immediately. 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 last year the officers and directors agreed on the use of a plan for the year which would assist those members who are currently experiencing financial difficulties due to the economic climate. The Financial Director, Tony Szplit, will accept the payment of dues in two equal parts at two times of 2010 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.

Fraternally,
Charles A. Komosa

DON'T FORGET TO MAKE A MEETING RESERVATION
Congratulations are extended to **Donald Verzen** on being named the Recipient of Honor for his many years of service to Resurrection Health Care and for his commitment to the mission of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the Sisters of the Resurrection at the March 13 Monarch Ball at the Fairmont Hotel downtown.

Diana and **Mark Dobrzycki**’s daughter Adriana appeared in Sunday’s *Chicago Sun-Times*’ February 7 edition of the paper on page 8. The link to the Internet site at the Sun-Times is http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/-1,g020710sweet.photogallery?index=9.

Condolences are extended to **Richard Jakubczak** on the death of his 86-year-old sister Jeanette of North Riverside and Wisconsin.

Guests looked out the Trump Towers 16th story window overlooking the Chicago River with sight lines all the way to the lighted 16th story window overlooking the Chicago River with sight lines all the way to the lighted Ferris Wheel of Navy Pier. Two Russian River with sight lines all the way to the lighted Ferris Wheel of Navy Pier. Two Russian tango dancers titillated the guests as dessert was served. It was the night of the Polish American Medical Society Ball. Seen were Anna Szpindor-Watson, **Frank Spula**, and Dorota and **Jim Zielinski**, the latter whose son became engaged that night to the beautiful young lady he had brought to the Inaugural Ball a few years back.

Hundreds of people milled in the atrium bar of the Hyatt Regency on Wacker Drive as a specific one hundred or so went to a private room for the 79th Annual Advocates Society Installation Banquet. Aurelia Pucinski installed the new officers. **Robert Groszek** was installed as First Vice President. Among the attendees were Dawn Bode, **Mark Dobrzycki**, Jennifer Groszek, Charles Komosa, Mark Kupiec, Chester Lizak, Thad Makarewicz, Dian Marsalek, Marilyn Mazewski, **Conrad Miezko** (who earlier was at the Lalique opening party with Jeanne Kane, who then went on a Year of the Tiger party), Anna and **Paul Ryndak**, and Maria and Martin Weihling. Regina Rathnau and Joan Smuda were still praising the CS Inaugural Ball they attended January 30. Michelle Hendrickson was still bubbling over the 2009 CS Ball.

Anna and **Paul Ryndak** spent a week in Mexico, and **John Domagala** spent three months in Poland. Gabrielle and **John Skaja** enjoyed the opening of Duke’s restaurant in Hawaii. Jody and **Joe Bauerle** were on a cruise to get some sunshine.

**T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** traveled to Green Bay, Wisconsin, in early March to tape four editions of the “Sobieski Vodka Polka Variety Show” to be broadcast on the Fox Entertainment Network in Wisconsin, later to be syndicated and available on the internet. From Green Bay, he went to Wisconsin Dells to make plans for Sobieski’s involvement in Polish Fest to be held in September, with help from **Bill Drozd**, whose decorating and design company has become a major enterprise in the Dells.

**EDITOR** (Continued from page 2)

To quote from a page 1 article of the September 1924 *Chicago Society News* written by a Brother from my former neighborhood: **DUES**

The time is fast approaching when, under the By-Laws it will be necessary for your Secretary to present to the Executive Committee a list of all members who are delinquent in payment of their monthly dues. Action will be taken on delinquents at the meeting to be held September 12, 1924.

As your Secretary, I take this means of giving due and timely warning to avoid the embarrassment of being obliged to read your name as delinquent.

If your dues are not paid, kindly attend payment at once.

**Leon Rammel**, Financial Secretary
West Logan Boulevard

**GENERAL MEETING VENUES**

The House Director, **Charles Cwiakala**, announces the meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. 17 March at White Eagle, 21 April at Copernicus Center, 19 May at Capone’s Hideaway, 16 June at Copernicus Center, 21 July at Copernicus Center, 18 August at White Eagle, 15 September at Copernicus Center, 20 October at Copernicus Center, 17 November at White Eagle, and 15 December at White Eagle.

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CONCLUSION

No Moon Pies or Cracker Jack boxes were thrown, no Mystic Krewe of Barkus was seen, but the spirited and loyal CS Brothers were out in full flush to celebrate their version of Mardi Gras, Zapusty Revelry, Tlusty Wtorek, Carnivale, Karnaval, the Sledz. The annual pre-Lent festivity held on Fat Tuesday, February 16 in the La Villa Banquet Room, featured dinner, a bar, dancing to a live band, the pageant, a raffle, and the crowning of the 2010 St. Joseph.

There were 32 revelers present. The meal of rosé wine, herring, salad, pizza bread, rolls and butter, pasta, chicken, veal, salmon, vegetables, and ice cream was plentiful, more than enough to fortify the religious ones for the strict fast to commence the next day. The music by the orchestra was very well received. Kudos was extended to the orchestra was very well received. Kudos was extended to William Wojcik and his Laramie Bakery for providing the paczki.

The recipe for paczki was created centuries ago as Christians were trying to get rid of perishable items such as butter, eggs, and cream prior to the start of Lent when they began a strict fast. In trying to use up these items, they developed the delicacy, known as paczki. The tradition of Paczki Day is celebrated on Fat Thursday during the final days of Carnival.

The Acting Chairman was Mark Orwat, and the committee bestows a sincere thank you to all who participated in the traditional procession, featuring a narrator, Walter Chrusciniski, an angel, Conrad Miczko, a devil, Richard Bivins, Father Time, Frank Czaja, pall bearers (carrying the fake sledz), Thad Makarewicz, Mark Cwiakala, Jerome Kujawa, Edmund Boduch, and the king and queen, Charles and Teresa Cwiakala, in their royal regalia, along with the singing of Maciek Umarl, symbolizing this local ethnic celebration.

At the culmination of the pageant the St. Joseph for the year 2009, Charles Cwiakala, circled the salon numerous times and then passed the wand to Mark Orwat, who did not know until that very moment that he would be crowned our St. Joseph for the New Year.

Everyone congratulated him. A “St. Joseph” is either a senior or particularly active younger member who acts as a type of chaplain Edward Green-Zielinski in 1993, the late John Slowik in 1992, the late Bruno Puszynski in 1991, Kazimerz Swierz in 1990, the late Chet Hajduk in 1989, the late Bruno Loris, Sr. in 1988, the late Walter Piasecki in 1987, Dr. Frank Brzezinski in 1986, the late Eugene Plack in 1985, the late Edmund Nowak, Sr. in 1984, the late John Kalin in 1983, the late Walter Mieczynski in 1982, the late Stanley Richards in 1981, the late Caesar Kaftanski in 1980, the late Dr. Henry Birch in 1979, the late Dr. Mitchell Kaminski in 1978, the late Joseph Perry-Puzryweski in 1977, the late Hon. Thaddeus Adeskind in 1976, the late Stanley Zydlo in 1975, the late Stanley Olech in 1974, the late Marion Kudlick, Sr. in 1973, the late Chester Grabowski, Sr. in 1972, and the late Joseph Zukowski in 1971.


Raffle winners were Edmund Boduch twice, Thad Makarewicz, Pete Piotrowski twice, Charles Komosa who re-donated his prize, and Mark Cwiakala.

All had a good time. Members should start assembling gold, green, and purple beads along with a mask and mark their calendar for next year - March 8 - Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday – for another night out on the town.

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MEMBER OF THE MONTH

Frank Czaja was born and raised in Chicago proper. He obtained the building blocks of his education at St. Mark’s Elementary School. He not only completed his high school education at Lane Tech, but also retired from Lane Technical High School. After high school, Frank continued his education at the University of Illinois at Urbana, where he was an active member of Kappa Delta Rho Fraternity.

Upon graduation, Frank obtained a position with the Chicago Board of Education as a drafting instructor. In that position he taught at Schurz High School, a beautiful facility designed by Frank Lloyd Wright at the corners of Milwaukee and Addison on the northwest side of Chicago. He then took his teaching skills and craftsmanship to Chicago Vocational High School where he taught Architecture and Interior Design drafting. He most certainly taught some of the society’s brightest children.

Frank met his lovely wife, Darlene, at Chicago Vocational High School, but both transferred to Lane Tech after being married in 1977. At Lane Tech, Frank and Darlene thrived.

In addition to being one of the best teachers in the Chicago Public School system, Frank taught students how to drive a car and play football. With his tall stature and ability to get the best from his students, Frank instructed may students on proper driving technique and coached the freshman and sophomore football teams for fourteen years. The social media lecture by Norbert Barszczewski opened the eyes of the members to Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, e-mailing, and blogging. It really boils down to how one wants his business to expand and be recognized he inferred. 45 men dined upstairs although only 34 had responded. Fortunate that chez Sawa had food on hand for its regular customers. Downstairs in the meeting room the audience controlled itself well discipline-wise during the lecture and meeting. Complimentary bags, caps, chains, and cups representing the 2010 Census were distributed by Frank Czaja.

Walter Pieciewicz (in his role as the new president of the Chicago Society Foundation) spoke on the mission of the CSF and its granting activity. A $10,000 endowment over a two-year period to Northeastern Illinois University was granted.

FEBRUARY MEETING DETAILS

Frank continues his career as a consultant and salesman for Dunning Electric, Inc. Frank instructs Dunning as to the proper procedures and requirements of working with Chicago Public Schools and other Parochial Schools. Frank still continues to support charity and the Poles. Even in the not so distant past, Frank was in charge of the building and grounds committee at St. Albert the Great Parish. This volunteer position makes him responsible for coordinating repairs, contractors, and construction for the Parish.

As a member of the Chicago Society PNA, Frank has served as the House Director, Personnel Director, and is currently the Civic Vice President. Frank is a regular organizer of the annual Picnic, an annual volunteer at the Deserving Children’s Christmas Party, Casino Fund-raiser for the Foundation, and an organizer of volunteers at the Taste of Polonia. Frank is an invaluable Society member and properly completes whatever has been asked of him, including the roll of St. Joseph and ensuring that the club has the best float at the Polish Constitutional Day Parade. He has been a Polish National Alliance member since 2000.

SPECIAL DAYS AND EVENTS

March 14 – Daylight Saving Time starts
March 17 – St. Patrick’s Day
March 20 – First Day of Spring
The birth flower for March is the Daffodil.
The birth stone for March is the Aquamarine.

SPECIAL GUEST

A very special guest is expected to attend the Chicago Society's Pre-Parade Brunch on May 1, 2010. An announcement will be made in the very near future.
PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following individual has applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the P.N.A. Any member should contact the Personnel Director prior to the next general meeting if he has an objection regarding the admission of a prospective member. 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: Kamil Bartoszcze  
6915 W. 104th St.  
Worth, Illinois 60482  
(708) 280-4353

Occupation: Music Director  
St. Albert the Great Church  
5555 State Rd.  
Burbank, Illinois 60459  
(708) 423-0321

Birth date: August 18, 1980
Birthplace: Tychy, Poland
Hobbies: Music
Spouse: Monika
Sponsors: Frank Czaja and Charles A. Komosa

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Kopka, James  
3 Wiermanski, Richard W.  
4 Drapszo Victor  
Gronkiewicz, Edmund  
6 Trybek, Arthur  
8 Folak, William  
9 Chruscinski, Walter  
23 Przybylski, Terrance  
26 Kiercul, Chester  
Kosin, Gregory  
28 Sawicki, William  
29 Gill, Kenneth

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY

Drodz, William 2005 5 Years

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3 Grygienc, Lawrence  
10 Komosa, Charles  
Nowak, Edmund  
18 Sufranski, Jerry  
20 Sraga, Les  
22 Kotlarz, Alfred  
23 Grzadziel, Lawrence  
Pikarski, Daniel  
24 Sufranski, William  
26 Strojny Wojtek  
27 Szywala, Ted  
30 Bialka, Walter

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Czaja, Frank 2000 10 Years  
Miller, Larry 2005 5 Years

WORLD NEWS

POLAND SUING RUSSIA FOR KATYN MASSACRE

Warsaw (PMN)—The Polish government has joined the lawsuit brought by Witomile Wolk-Jezierska and twelve other Poles, relatives of Polish officers murdered by the NKVD Soviet secret police in August 2009. The Polish government will have third party status with the right to propose motions before the European Court of Human Rights.

The European Court of Human Rights has ruled that Russia has to respond to charges by March 19, 2010, including claims of humiliation and violation of the right to life, guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights.

The relatives of the victims of the Katyn massacre have been seeking justice in Russian courts for years, but the Russian justice system has refused restitution for the murdered officers. In addition, the Poles and prosecutors from the Institute of National Remembrance were also refused access to documents on the Katyn investigation conducted in 2004, because Russia claims they are confidential.

Poland has long demanded that Moscow recognize the Katyn events as genocide.

AGNIESZKA HOLLAND SHOOTING NEW FILM

Berlin, Germany (PMN)—Location shooting is underway in Germany for a new feature by the prominent Polish director Agnieszka Holland. Entitled “Hidden,” it is based on the real-life story of Leopold Socha, a Pole who risked his own life and the lives of his loved ones in saving a group of Jewish men, women and children, hiding them in the sewers of Lviv [Lwow] during World War Two.

“Hidden” is a Polish-German-Canadian co-production. In early March, the production team will move to Poland, with location shooting scheduled in Warsaw and Lodz.

Holland has described the story as moving, but not sentimental. The main character transforms from a small-time thief to a hero. Originally, he helped the Jews to gain financial benefits, but gradually becomes guided by noble motives.

Holland added that Leopold Socha’s story is virtually unknown, similarly to many others in which Poles displayed incredible courage and heroism. She recalled that Irena Sendler, the Polish woman who saved 2,500 Jewish children from the Holocaust, remained unknown for decades.

Agnieszka Holland’s best-known films are “Europa, Europa” (Oscar nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay in 1991.) “Total Eclipse,” “To Kill a Priest (about the murder of Solidarity priest Father Jerzy Popieluszko), “Washington Square” and “Copying Beethoven.”

POZnan LOSES BID TO HOST 2014 YOUTH OLYMPICS

Poznan, Poland (PMN)—Poznan has lost its Olympic bid to host the Summer Youth Olympic Games in 2014. The right was awarded to the only other contender, the Chinese city of Nanjing.

Nanjing defeated Poznan by a vote of 47-42 at the International Olympic Committee (IOC) meeting in Vancouver, Canada. According to the representatives of the Poznan authorities who were present in Canada, it was the financial guarantees which decided about the city’s defeat. Nanjing guaranteed a budget of $140 million, while Poznan, capital of the Wielkopolska region, proposed half that amount.

Poznan Mayor Ryszard Grobelny did not hide his disappointment, saying that “all we really needed was only five votes to win. We managed to round up a few extra votes at the last minute, but it was still not enough.”

The International Olympic Committee established the Youth Olympic Games in an attempt to stir more interest in sports and the Games among young people.
2010 SCHOLARSHIPS ANOUNCED

It is with great pleasure that the Scholarship Committee of the Chicago Society announces the recipients of the 2009 Scholarship Competition. First place honor goes to Brittany Joanne Kowalski, sponsored by Walter Piecewicz. She will receive $3000. Second place honors goes to Franceska Tykla, sponsored by Dr. Chester Klos. She will receive $2000. Third place honors goes to Stephanie Catherine Domagalski, sponsored by John Domagalski. She will receive $1000.

The awards will be presented on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at the Pre-Parade Breakfast sponsored by the Chicago Society at the Congress Plaza Hotel (552 S. Michigan Avenue) with Social hour at 9 A.M. and Breakfast at 10 A.M.

The topic this year was “Describe a time in your life that you were proud to be Polish.” The Forum will be publishing each month one of the winning essays. The chairman of the committee, Dr. Chester Klos, wishes to thank his committee members, Andy Batorski, Greg Ciesla, Fr. Jacek Dada, Walter Piecewicz, and John Skaja, for all their hard work and time spent reviewing and updating the application forms and judging the essays. All essays were judged anonymously, and the chairman did not partake in the judging, but only vetted the applications and prepared the essays for the committee. The chairman also thanks the Chicago Foundation for so generously matching the funds that the Society worked so hard to provide for this year’s recipients. Dr. Klos, who will continue as chairman this year, hopes that more members will sponsor candidates for next year’s competition.

NEWS BRIEFS

Prepared by the Polonia Media Network

Nine people were arrested on February 8, 2010, by border guards in southern Poland for arms dealing and criminal activities. The regional prosecutor in Nowy Sacz stated that the group is being charged with dealing in narcotics, arms, explosives and people. The criminal group has been working in the Silesia region since September, 2009, and includes a Slovakian citizen charged with bringing illegal arms into Poland. The alleged criminals face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

A half dozen Catholics, including a Pole, will officially join the ranks of the Church’s canonized saints this autumn. The six destined for sainthood include Fr. Stanislaw Soltys of Poland. Pope Benedict XVI and the College of Cardinals approved the causes for sainthood of all of the “Blessed” candidates proposed in a consistory on February 19, 2010. The Pope announced that the canonization ceremony will take place on Sunday, October 17, 2010.

A farmer from Szczecin appeared in court on February 7, 2010, after posing as a gynecologist. Donning a white coat and stethoscope, the 45-year old wandered hospital corridors administering examinations for two years. Police believe that he wasn’t acting alone and at least one other person was in on the caper.

Restaurateurs asked the Polish Parliament [Sejm] to ease regulations in new anti-smoking legislation. They claim that a complete ban on smoking in restaurants, pubs and clubs will cause many to go bankrupt. The bill prevents businesses from having smoking sections, or even sealed smoking rooms. The restaurant owners presented the findings of a study of 600 restaurants, indicating that 54% of respondents believed the number of customers will drop because of a smoking ban. Only 3% thought the number would increase.

In recognition of the 200 birth anniversary of the birth of Chopin, Vizar, Spanish winemakers have released a limited edition of three labels: “Prelude,” “Sonata” and “Scherzo.” A special launching ceremony was held on February 7, 2010.
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