



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA
Now in Our Second Century of Service

VOLUME 78

February 2026

NUMBER 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11

General Meeting/Sledz:

Lone Tree Manor
7730 Milwaukee Ave.
Niles, IL

Call to Order: 7 p.m.
(Happy Hour: 6 p.m.)

Guests are welcome,
and tasteful costumes
are encouraged!

Cost: \$45 for members,
\$55 for guests

Paczki: \$2 each

Reservations:
Andy Haszlakiewicz
andyh9946@gmail.com
or call (847) 341-1068

HAPPY SLEDZ!
and
HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY!

Dear Chicago Society Members and Friends:

Since our president, Zenon Kurdziel, is currently on vacation from our winter weather, it falls to me, as the Forum editor, to remind everyone of activities that are coming up in the near future.

First of those, of course, is our annual pre-Lenten Sledz, which is being held as part of our monthly general meeting on Wednesday evening, Feb. 11, at Lone Tree Manor in Niles—the details are on page 3. Normally, of course, we would be meeting on the third Wednesday of the month—but that happens to be Ash Wednesday this year, and of course you can't put on a Sledz then! (This is also why the Forum is coming out earlier than usual this month; for that reason, it is also in abbreviated form—only 4 pages; we'll get it back up to at least 6 pages [or maybe more] in March.)

A couple of other important events are coming up later in February, which we anticipate that many of our members will also attend. The Advocates Society, representing Chicago's Polish-American attorneys and judges, is holding its annual dinner, featuring an installation of officers, on Thursday, Feb. 26; and then, of course, the ever-popular White and Red Ball will take place Saturday evening, Feb. 28. (Details on both of these events are also inside.)

Finally, it's not too early to start planning for the Polish Constitution Day parade, and our annual brunch which precedes it. The big day this year is Saturday, May 2. By then, of course, winter weather will be just a memory, and spring will be in full bloom—we hope!

Terry Przybylski

Editor, Chicago Society PNA Forum



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

Board of Directors

President

Zenon Kurdziel

1st Vice President

Andy Hasztrakiewicz

2nd Vice President

Marta Almodovar

Secretary

Mark Mikina

Financial Secretary

Jan Plachta

Treasurer

Jackson Gondela-Haack

Senior Director

Chris Grzadziel

Director, Social Activities

Iwona Przonak

Editor, FORUM

Terry Przybylski

February Forum Highlights

- ◆ Sledz at Lone Tree Manor on Feb. 11
- ◆ Still Time to Sign Up for White and Red Ball
- ◆ Advocates Society to Gather on Feb. 26

Remember the Chicago Society's address:

**Chicago Society PNA, Lodge #1450
333 Busse Highway, #973
Park Ridge, IL 60068-3285**

—Upcoming Events—

—The 2026 Polish Constitution Day Parade (and the Chicago Society PNA Pre-Parade Brunch that precedes it) will be held on Saturday, May 2. The brunch will once again be at the Congress Plaza Hotel on South Michigan Avenue. Details to come next month!

—Our annual Golf Outing will be held on Friday, July 31, once again at The Bridges of Poplar Creek golf course in Hoffman Estates. More information on this will also be coming soon.

PaSO Presenting Show on 'Adam and Eve' Feb. 14-15

A musical show, Mark Twain's "Diaries of Adam and Eve" (Pamiętniki Adama i Ewy) will be presented on the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra stage on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. Bogdan Lanko and Monika Kulas will portray Adam and Eve, and Andrzej Dylewski will provide special musical accompaniment. Tickets are \$35 and can be ordered by calling (773) 467-9000.

'Monsieur Chopin' Coming to Harris Theatre Feb. 22

"Monsieur Chopin," a one-man performance by pianist Hershey Felder, will be held on Sunday, Feb. 22, starting at 4 p.m., in the Harris Theatre at Millennium Park in downtown Chicago. The 2-hour concert will feature many of Chopin's best-loved compositions. Tickets can be ordered by calling (312) 334-7777, or visiting the website: www.harristheatrechicago.org.

Sledz Highlights Our General Meeting on Feb. 11

A pre-Lenten “Sledz” will highlight February’s general meeting of the Chicago Society PNA, which will be held Wednesday, Feb. 11 at Lone Tree Manor, 7730 Milwaukee Ave., Niles, with a happy hour starting at 6 p.m. and the dinner at 7 p.m. Members are encouraged to bring along guests to attend this event, and all are welcome to wear tasteful costumes. There is a special charge of \$45 for members and \$55 for guests. Dinner will feature an appetizer of “Sledzie” (herring); a main course of Chicken Kiev or Beef Roll-Ups (zrazy); sides of Kluski Slaskie, fresh boiled potatoes, cold beets, and green beans with butter; and dessert of kolaczki and pound cake. Of course, paczki will also be available (at \$2 each). As always, there will be a special parade with costumed characters to mark the coming of the Lenten season. We will also choose a new person to serve in the coming year as our “St. Joseph” (the official “chaplain” who leads the prayer at our general meetings). If you haven’t yet registered to attend, please contact Iwona Przonak at her email address: iwonaprzonak@gmail.com. All checks should be made out to: Chicago Society PNA.

White and Red Ball Ticket Deadline Is Feb. 15

The 86th Annual White and Red Ball will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28 at the Hilton Chicago hotel, 720 S. Michigan Ave. The deadline to purchase tickets for the ball is Sunday, February 15; tickets can still be ordered online by going to: www.lypw.org/tickets. Nine young ladies from the Legion of Young Polish Women are the debutantes, and will compete to become Queen of the Ball—which is the organization’s main fundraising event of the year, benefitting various charities and Polish cultural endeavors.

Men are required to wear a black tuxedo or tails; women must wear floor-length gowns or ball gowns, and are asked not to wear anything white or red—since those colors are reserved for the debutantes. Tickets are \$250 for adults, \$200 for teens (age 13-20), and \$100 for children (12 and under). The dinner choice is filet mignon, striped bass or vegetarian (for adults and teens), plus a children’s platter. The receiving line starts at 5:30 p.m., dinner is at 7 p.m., and the contest will follow.

Photos and full biographies of all nine of the contestants can be viewed at the website: www.lypw.org/white-and-red-ball/2026debutantes.

Advocates Society Gathering on Feb. 26

The Advocates Society, the organization representing Polish-American attorneys and judges in the Chicago area, will be holding its annual dinner and installation of officers for the coming year on Thursday, Feb. 26, starting at 5:30 p.m., at the Allegro Royal Sonesta Hotel, 171 W. Randolph St., Chicago.

Justice Jesse G. Reyes, of the Illinois Appellate Court, will receive the organization’s 2026 Award of Merit. Advocates Society officers for 2026, led by President Kathy E. Bojczuk, will also be officially sworn in. A plated dinner will be served, with wine and beer also available. Business formal/ cocktail attire is required.

Early Bird registration ends on Saturday, Feb. 14; admission is \$200 for members and \$250 for friends up to that date. After Feb. 14, tickets go up to \$250 for members and \$300 for friends. Anyone wishing to purchase tickets or sponsorships for this event can register at the website: www.AdvocatesSociety.org.

If you have a story to submit
to the Forum, please email:
terryprzyby@yahoo.com



www.taxpol.net



THE SKAJA FAMILY

Family owned and operated
Serving our community for
88 years

Jack Skaja and John Skaja
Members

SKAJA TERRACE FUNERAL HOME

7812 N. Milwaukee Avenue
Niles, Illinois 60714

CHCAGO SOCIETY FORUM

333 Busse Highway, #973
Park Ridge, IL 60068-3285

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

