

VOLUME 64 OCTOBER 2013 NUMBER 10

## DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

#### **WEDNESDAY**

October 16, 2013 6:00 P.M.

Elk's Lodge, 495 Lee St. Des Plaines, Illinois

### RESERVATIONS

by October 14 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

Or 847-823-8747

### NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, November 4, 7:00 P.M. Folak's Lincoln Tayern

#### COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2013—
"Octoberfest" Dinner Meeting
Elk's Lodge, Des Plaines

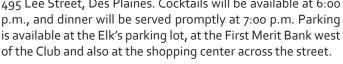
Thursday, Oct. 24, 2013— Candidates' Corned Beef Dinner AAC Eagles Club

Thursday, Nov. 14, 2013— Nite at the Races Maywood Park

Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2013— Thanksgiving Dinner and Elections Meeting, Przybylo's

#### TURKEY RAFFLE AND OKTOBERFEST AT OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, at the Elk's Lodge at 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines. Cocktails will be available at 6:00 p.m., and dinner will be served promptly at 7:00 p.m. Parking



A sit-down dinner with an Oktoberfest theme of a variety of sausages and other goodies will be served. There will also be a pitcher of beer on each table. Our annual turkey raffle will be held at this meeting. Make sure to reserve your spot

for our dinner meeting. You can email your reservation (preferable) to meeting@ chicagosocietypna.org, or call 847-823-8747.

### **PROPERTY TAXES GOT YOU DOWN?**

Our speaker at the October General meeting will be Brother **Ted Makarewicz** who will give us "An Informal View on Appealing Your Property Tax Bill." Brother Ted is the Advocate of the Chicago Society. He has been a member of the Chicago Society since 1995. He is currently the chief legal counsel for the Assessor's Office of Cook County. He also serves on the Board of Chicago Sister Cities. His other interests include reading history, especially Polish history, and being involved in and promoting the various organizations in Polonia.



#### FRIENDS & CANDIDATES CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

The Chicago Society Annual Friends & Candidates Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at the AAC Eagles Club located 5844 N. Milwaukee in Chicago. As usual, all members and their guests are welcome to join us and network, break bread and have a great evening! The very low priced ticket of \$30.00 includes open bar with premium liquor starting at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner featuring Harrington's famous corned beef with horse radish, cabbage, boiled potatoes, pumpernickel bread, and apple pie and coffee for dessert. After dinner we will have the ever popular Executive Raffle and continue to network! Please call Brother Charles Komosa 773-286-7123 or Brother John Cieslik 312-859-5404 if you would like to attend. Please make your reservations early because tickets will not be sold at the door.

Tickets may be purchased at our website by check or credit card via PayPal at http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html.

#### CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Brother Charles Komosa, Chairman of the Chicago Society Scholarship Committee, announces that applications are now available for Chicago Society scholarships. The application is available, in fillable form, on our website <a href="http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/scholarship.">http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/scholarship.</a> Please note that the deadline for receipt of applications and all supporting materials is February 1, 2014.

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CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications Ted Wiecek <u>editor@chicagosocietypna.org</u>

Layout by Polonia Media Network division of the AmeriPol Corporation

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR MEETING RESERVATION?

Dear Brothers,

As fall is upon us, the weather is starting to cool but the events are getting hotter. I would like to thank Brother John Cieslik for organizing a successful Business Expo at our last meeting, together with all the members who participated by promoting their business and making us aware of what business or service they provide. Thank you all.



Not too far away is our Friends & Candidates Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, which will be held on Thursday, Oct. 24, at the AAC Eagles Club located 5844 N. Milwaukee in Chicago. Cost is only \$30.00 for Harrington's Corned Beef and an open bar. The event starts at 6pm. Please call Brother **Charles Komosa** 773-286-7123 or Brother **John Cieslik** 312-859-5404 for reservations. Space is limited. Please make your reservations early.

Our next event is the Night at the Races on Thursday Nov. 14, at Maywood Park. PAPA will also be having their night at the races the same night. Please contact Brother **Fred Koziol** for tickets to this event 773-297-7768.

Finally, remember October is Polish Heritage Month. Try and spread our heritage. Attend the various observances throughout the area. Let others know about our rich history and be proud.

Fraternally Yours, Mark Orwat



Last year, *The Forum* published a series of articles on the traditions of Poland observed each month. This year, readers were given an overview of the folklore of individual regions of Poland. My hope was that readers will gain a greater appreciation of the beauty of our culture. It is our culture, our heritage, our traditions, that unite us Poles throughout the world. Poles in every corner of the world,

wherever they may be, observe Wigila by breaking optatek and singing kolędy. I certainly hope that my brother members are exposing their children and grandchildren to these traditions and passing them on to future generations. Polish culture is much more than polka, pierogi and piwo. It is deeply rooted in the lives and experiences of previous generations of Poles, and has survived many years of oppression. Even when Poland was not an independent country, Poles kept their culture alive, giving them the strength and courage to survive.

My first memory of Polish culture is my grandmother taking me to see a concert of *Mazowsze* when I was about 7 years old. I remember being entranced by the colors and the melodies of that concert, and thus began my interest and my involvement in Polish culture. I joined the *Lechici Dancers* at the age of 11. With time, I became the ensemble's director in 1972 and then its choreographer in 1980, until I "retired" in 1996. In order to expand my knowledge of Polish folk dance, I completed a three-month study of Polish folk dance in Lublin, Poland, earning a diploma in Polish folk dance choreography from the Ministry of Arts and Culture of Poland. I later returned for an additional month of study. Thanks to this, the *Lechici Dancers* have for many years been known not only for the authenticity of their performances, but also for their exuberance and vitality. I mention this to show that, even though I was not born in Poland, my grandparents and parents lit that spark in me to continue their traditions. And I hope you can light that same spark in your children and grandchildren.

A member of the Society—a member of the Board—said to me that this "Polish stuff [in *The Forum*] was silly." Needless to say, I was shocked and dismayed that these gentleman of Polish descent found the traditions of his grandparents "silly." What does that say of his future generations?

October is Polish American Heritage Month. Use this opportunity to expose the young ones of your families to the culture of their country. Take your families to an event listed elsewhere in this issue. Teach them some words in Polish, a Polish Song, a Polish dance, buy them a Polish doll or toy. I certainly hope that these series have not only educated you, but have also enriched and expanded your knowledge and appreciation of the heritage and culture of the land of your forefathers. Let's make sure our culture stays alive for many generations to come.

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- ♦ The Polish American Association is proud to offer scholarships for qualified, bright and financially challenged college students of Polish descent. Scholarships are awarded annually. The scholarships can be used at any accredited college or university. Visit the PAA web site at http://www.polish.org/programs-and-services/education/scholarship for the more information and the application.
- ♦ Brother **Ken Gill** is now convalescing at Brentwood North, 3705 Deerfield Rd., Riverwoods, IL 60015, 773-852-6757. He would greatly appreciate a visit, a card, or a phone call. We all wish him well!
- ♦ The Art for Heart exhibit, benefitting both the Gift from the Heart Foundation (Dar Serca) and the Polish Museum of America, opened with a reception on Saturday, Sept. 21. The chair of the exhibit is Brother Andy Pawlowski. Enjoying the exhibit and the festivities were Brother Kamil Bartoszcze, who provided the musical entertainment, and Brother Ted Wiecek.

#### CASINO DAYS SCHEDULED

The remaining Texas Hold 'em Casino Days to benefit the Chicago Society in 2013 will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 6; and Tuesday, Nov. 19. All will be held at Przybylo's House of the White Eagle. Volunteers are need for these events. You don't need to know how to deal, only how to smile. Shifts are 1:30—6:30 and 6:30—midnight. If you can give a few hours of your time on any of those dates, please contact Brother Chuck Cwiakala.

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## POLISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH IN THE CHICAGO AREA

A variety of events are scheduled to observe Polish American Heritage Month in the Chicago area. Some of the noteworthy events include those below.

The Chicago Public Library celebrates Polish American Heritage Month by observing the culture, heritage, contributions and achievements of Polish Americans. During October, there will be a variety of free programs, special events and exhibits highlighting significant contributions by Polish Americans and Poles in the United States. For more information, go to <a href="http://www.chipublib.org/eventsprog/programs/cel-diversity/pahm.php">http://www.chipublib.org/eventsprog/programs/cel-diversity/pahm.php</a>.

The Polish American Heritage Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress (PAC), will be held on Sunday, Oct. 20 at Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets. The awards will go to: Lucja Sliwa, Rep. Mike Quigley, Camille Kopielski, Basia Myszynski, Leonard Myszynski, Marian Bryja and Piotr Sliwa. For details call (773) 631-3300 or visit <a href="http://pacillinois.org/latest-news/102013-polish-american-heritage-awards-banquet">http://pacillinois.org/latest-news/102013-polish-american-heritage-awards-banquet</a>.

The first Chicagoland screening in many months of "Tony and Janina's American Wedding" will be on Monday, Oct. 7, at the Harold Washington Public Library. Director Ruth Leitman, and Tony Wasilewski will be in attendance to greet attendees, as well as participate in a post-screening discussion about the film and immigration reform. Details at <a href="http://tonyandjanina.com/2013/09/07/chicago-screening-on-monday-october-7-2013-at-6pm/">http://tonyandjanina.com/2013/09/07/chicago-screening-on-monday-october-7-2013-at-6pm/</a>.

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## CHICAGO SOCIETY BUSINESS EXPO

The following brother members participated in the Business Expo at the September meeting:

Norbert Barszczewski – JP NetQuest, Inc John Cieslik with Wesley Kosla – representing the Illinois Comptroller, Judy BaarTopinka

Robert Groszek – Groszek Law Firm

Dale Ihssen – TransAmerica Financial Group

Richard Jadczak – AJR Insurance Agency, affiliated with PNA

T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert – Polonia Today and Polonia Media Network

Anthony Kawalkowski – Mark Anthony Productions

Gary Kenzer with Izabella Bultrowicz – Polish American Association

Ro Matuszczak – Matco Travel

James Pieczonka – Attorney and Counselor at Law.

Robert Radkowski – BMO/Harris Bank

Les Sraga – Stawski Imports

Lukasz Wrobel – Continental and Mitsubishi Dealership

Each participant had a chance to say something about his business. It was a successful evening. Brother **John Cieslik**, Chairman, thanks all those who participated.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Nov. 14: "Night at the Races," Maywood Park

Nov. 16: PAA Annual Gala, Intercontinental Chicago O'Hare

Dec. 14: Deserving Children's Christmas Party, PNA



Dec. 15: Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra Christmas Concert, Copernicus

Jan. 18, 2014: Chicago Society Inaugural Ball, Rosewood Gardens

EVENT TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE

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# POPE JOHN PAUL II TO BE CANONIZED ON APRIL 27

Vatican City (PMN)—Pope John Paul II will be canonized on April 27, 2014. Pope Francis had let it be known earlier in a private conversation that the Sunday after Easter is the date he wanted for the ceremony. On September 30, a consistory of cardinals formally approved the canonization date.

Pope John XXIII, who was pontiff from 1958 to 1963 and convened the Second Vatican Council, will also be canonized on the same date.

During a papal press conference on his return from Rio de Janeiro July 28, Pope Francis said both Popes will be canonized "together," but said it was unlikely the canonizations would take place during the autumn or winter as many Poles will be traveling to Rome for the ceremony by bus, and the road conditions could be bad.

Vatican spokesman Fr. Federico Lombardi had previously told *Newsmax* 



Magazine, "We can say that April 27 is very likely, given that the Pope made an explicit reference to [Divine Mercy Sunday] in the interview on the return flight from

Rio, saying that he realized that in winter, it would be difficult for pilgrims from Poland and countries of Central and Northern Europe to attend, and so it was better to postpone until the spring."

Divine Mercy Sunday is a special day for John Paul, who established the feast day in 2001. Its origins date back to Polish nun Faustina Kowalska, who had a devotion to the Divine Mercy after an encounter with Jesus. In visions and conversations with Jesus, Kowalska, who lived from 1905-1938, said Jesus asked her specifically for a feast of Divine Mercy to be established so mankind would take refuge in Jesus.

John Paul II died on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday in 2005.

The theme of mercy is also central to the pontificate of Pope Francis, who has frequently said, "This is the time for mercy." Father Lombardi told Vatican

Radio July 30 that Francis has "great effectiveness in helping people understand the theme of God's love and mercy, which reaches out to soothe and heal the wounds of humanity."

Pope Francis signed a decree July 5, 2013, that gave the go-ahead for the canonizations of both John Paul II and John XXIII. Usually two miracles attributed to a candidate's intercession are required to become a saint. A French nun, who was inexplicably cured of Parkinson's disease, led to John Paul II's beatification on May 1, 2011.

A second miracle, which must occur after a beatification, involved a Costa Rican woman who was cured of a cerebral aneurysm the very day of John Paul II's beatification.

For John XXIII, Pope Francis took the rare step of waiving the requirement of a second miracle, paving the way for his canonization.

Often it can take centuries between the death of a person with a reputation for holiness and their canonization. But for John Paul II's cause for canonization, the process was partially expedited after pressure was placed on Benedict XVI to waive the usual five years between a candidate's death and the opening of their cause. Benedict agreed to the waiver in May, 2005.

When the late Polish pontiff is elevated to sainthood on April 27, it will have been only nine years and 25 days since his death.

## Advocates Co-Sponsor Courthouse Tour

Chicago (PMN)—Circuit Court of Cook County Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans announced the Annual Polish Heritage Month Courthouse Tour of the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 West Washington St., will take place on Tuesday, October 29, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The Daley Center is the main court-house for the Circuit Court of Cook County, one of the nation's largest unified court systems. Tour highlights include a visit to a courtroom to observe a civil trial in progress, an informal question and answer session with a judge and the opportunity to meet with bar association representatives.

Tour participants will receive a copy of the court's guide which offers helpful information about how the Circuit Court of Cook County is structured, explains the basics of trial proceedings and includes a directory of court and county services.

Tour reservations are recommended. Individuals or groups planning on attending the Annual Polish Heritage Month Courthouse Tour should contact Milissa Pacelli, of the Circuit Court of Cook County's Public Affairs Office at 312.603.1927, on or before Wednesday, October 23, 2013. The tours are limited to persons age ten and older, with a maximum of 35 persons to a group.

Co-sponsoring the tour is the Advocates Society, the Association of Polish American Attorneys. For more information about other courthouse tours and general information on the Circuit Court of Cook County, visit http://www.cookcountycourt.org.

## CHICAGO SOCIETY E-MAIL NOTICES

Do you receive notices from the Chicago Society by e-mail? If you have internet access, but don't get these messages, you are not taking full advantage of your membership.

Notices are sent about Forum availability, meetings, photos and video, deaths, special events, etc. They keep you up to date and fully informed.

If you did not get a notice that this edition of the Forum is available online, send your name and e-mail address to webmaster@chicagosocietypna.org today. You will be added to our e-mail list immediately.

## More Boeing Dreamliner Problems for LOT's Fleet

Warsaw (PMN)—LOT, the flag carrier of Poland said on September 23 that it had to temporarily ground its fleet of five Dreamliners after inspections revealed fuel filters missing from the Rolls-Royce engines on two of its aircraft.LOT spokeswoman Barbara Pijanowska-Kuras said the issue posed "no threat to flight safety" because each engine has two filters, but LOT immediately grounded the remaining Dreamliners for inspection.

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### POLISH ARTS CLUB TO HOST LUNCHEON/MUSEUM TOUR

The Polish Arts Club of Chicago, whose president is Brother T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, is hosting a tour of the Polish Museum of America with a luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2013 at the Museum. Doors open at 12:00, luncheon from Folak's will be served at 12:30, with a tour of the Museum immediately following. Highlights of the tour will be the exhibit commemorating the 140th Anniversary of the PRCUA. Also included will be the Paderewski Room and the Stephen and Elizabeth Ann Kusmierczak Art Gallery.

Cost including luncheon and a guided tour is \$25 per person. Space is limited, so reserve your seat now. For more information or to make a reservation, contact the chairman of the event, Brother **Ted Wiecek** at twiecek@hotmail. com or 773-539-9491.

### COME EXPERIENCE THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

With fall already upon us, it's not too early to start making your holiday plans. Brother Anthony Kawalkowski

and his orchestra will present a concert of Christmas favorites. "The Love and Peace of Christmas," on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. at the Copernicus Center. Tony is well known throughout the Midwest and across



the US. He has played at the Society's Inaugural Ball, the White and Red Ball, and many other major events. Make sure to mark this date on your calendar and include it in your Christmas plans.



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#### A NIGHT AT THE RACES

in a front row seat to enjoy live harness racing at Maywood Park Racetrack in Maywood on Thursday, Nov. 14. Tickets cost \$25, which gets you VIP treatment at the park: valet parking, a program

book, group race dedication, with a buffet dinner in the elegant Winners' Circle dining room. Dinner with dessert



table, coffee and tea, will be served from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., with post time at 7:10 p.m. The park is located at 8600 W. North Ave. at First Ave. in Maywood. Entrance to the parking lot is off of Fifth Ave, south of North Ave. Tickets can be purchased by check or cash from Brother Fred Koziol 773-297-7768, or via Paypal at our website, http://www. chicagosocietypna.org/payments.

#### **News Briefs**

Prepared and Distributed by the Polonia Media Network

Cable's Military Channel series "Air Aces" featured the story of Francis "Gabby" Gabreski (born Franciszek Gabryszewski) on September 19, 2013, a first generation American born to Polish immigrants. Gabreski never forgot his roots and was hit hard when the Nazis invaded Poland, so joined the Air Force. He was overly concerned about training and did not seem to be a good prospect for pilot at the start. His next instructor put him at ease and he progressed as a pilot. Gabreski became the top American fighter ace in Europe during World War II, a jet fighter ace in Korea, and a career officer in the United States Air Force with more than 26 years of service, retiring with the rank of colonel. He was referred to repeatedly during the program as a Polish American.

Lech Walesa, the subject of a biopic by director Andrzej Wajda that premiered at the Venice Film Festival in September, said he wanted a new revolution and hoped the film would inspire the young. "Walesa: Man of Hope" captures the 69-year-old's evolution from electrician to union boss to legendary protest leader. The backdrop for the story, the rise of Walesa and his Solidarity trade union movement, is a riot-torn 1970s Poland that eventually threw off Soviet-bloc communism. Walesa fell out of favor with many Poles during his presidency, when he was accused of betraying promises, but the emotional film pays homage to the revolutionary spirit he once incarnated.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk said at the Economic Forum in Krynica-Zdrój, southern Poland, said on September 9, 2013, that there will be "no recession in Poland" and expects the country's GDP growth rate to reach 3% in 2014. Tusk said that the European economic crisis had been "banging on [Poland's] door but didn't break it open. We didn't let the crisis into Poland." He also announced that by 2016 his government will have introduced a "friendlier" tax system through a plan of which the government will reveal details in the autumn.

— Continued on page 7 —

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#### PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following gentlemen have applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. If any member has an objection regarding the admission of either of these prospective members, 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: Mark John Pasieka Address: 3535 W Belmont

Chicago, IL 60618

Phone: 773-225-8558 Occupation: Electrical engineer Birth date: Dec. 8, 1977

Birthplace: Chicago Education: BS, Univ. of Arizona; MS in

Electrical Engineering Arizona State Univ.

Sponsors: Mark Orwat, Robert Groszek

Name: Martin A. Vogel

Address: 6261 N Northwest Hwy, #1D

Chicago, IL 60631

Phone: 773-931-6638

Occupation: Police Officer, CPD; teacher

Birth date: Nov. 30, 1962 Birthplace: Poland

Education: MS Psychology

Sponsors: Mark Orwat, Frank Czaja

#### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

2 Richard Ciesla John Cieslik Victor Kay Christopher Kurczaba

- 6 Edward Kuk Richard Kula
- 7 Richard Jadczak
- 8 John Jr. Pikarski
- 10 William Folak Theodore Sanders
- 15 Stanley Sawa
- 18 Frank Cizon
- 20 Wojtek Skonieczny
- 22 Dariusz Kozlowski
- 26 Mark Orwat
- 30 Kazimer Swierz

#### RULES FOR VOTING AND RUNNING FOR OFFICE IF NOT SLATED

The Nominating Committee shall select at least one candidate for each elective position who shall be required to sign an acceptance of nomination. At the October meeting, the chairman of the Nominating Committee will announce the slate of candidates that has been selected. Any member may run against a slated candidate for a particular office. The rules and procedures for doing such are stated in the Constitution, Article VII: Election of Officers and Directors.

At the regular meeting in October the Nominating Committee shall accept for nomination such additional lists of candidates for the respective offices as may be submitted by the petitions of ten or more members, provided however that the signed acceptance of each candidate is attached to each such petition. The adjournment of the meeting shall close the nominations in the absence of a motion for that purpose. Immediately thereafter, the nominating committee shall submit a list containing all of the names of the candidates to the Recording Secretary who shall cause the publicizing of such list to all members in good standing at least ten days prior to the date of the November election meeting.

The President shall appoint five Judges of Election, if necessary, who shall prepare a ballot, have charge of the polls of election, canvass the votes and certify the results to the Recording Secretary. Only members in good standing shall be eligible to be elected, to sign petitions or to vote. No member admitted to membership in the Society within five days of election shall be eligible to vote at the election.

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Chicago Society Nominating Committee chairman Brother **Stanley Jendzejec** is recommending the following slate of officers and directors for 2014, pending approval of the Nominating Committee:

President Mark Orwat Executive Vice President Robert Groszek Civic Vice President John Cieslik Recording Secretary **Ted Wiecek** Financial Secretary Richard Jadczak Treasurer no recommendation **Ted Makarewicz** Advocate Senior Director Frank Czaja Social Activities Director Ro Matuszczak Clubhouse Director Charles Cwiakala

Directors at Large (5)

Mario Mikoda

T. Ron Jasinski Herbert

Charles Komosa

John Wojciechowski
(1 position has no recommendation)

Any additional member interested in running for an office must submit his petition to the chair of the Nominating Committee before the close of the October General Meeting. The election of Officers and Directors will be held at the November General Meeting on Nov. 20.

#### **OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother members, who are celebrating the anniversary of their induction In October.

Edward Kuk 1973 40 years Paul Odrobina 2008 5 years

## WINTER DRESS CODE IN EFFECT

Starting with the October meeting

and through April, the Winter Dress Code is in effect for all general meetings of the Society. Gentlemen are requested to dress in a business fashion. A suits or sport required; coat is tie. though



recommended, is not required. However, jeans, shorts, and gym shoes are NOT permitted.

DON'T DELAY!

MAKE YOUR

CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE

RESERVATION TODAY

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#### **News Briefs** (Cont'd from page5)

The Indiana Dunes attracts lots of visitors each year, but most of them do not travel quite as far as Ewa Siatecka and Malgorzata Mickiewicz. The women, who work at Kampinos National Park in Poland, visited the lakeshore for almost three weeks in September through a sister park program. Siatecka handles international tourism for the Polish park, while Mickiewicz is deputy director for science, education and park accessibility. The two spent much of their time so far exploring the Dunes Park, as well as Chicago, and planned a trip to check out Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan. Paul Labovitz, interim director of the lakeshore, traveled to Poland 20 years ago, as the country shifted from Soviet control toward democracy and parks officials there wanted to learn how to gather public input on park planning.

A massive mushroom has been found in a forest in northwestern Poland in late September, 2013. The boletus, which weighs 6.6 lbs. and has a diameter of 15.7 inches, was found in the Bydgoszcz forest by a man from Ciechocinek. He says part of the mushroom may be used in a Christmas dish.



HUBERT J. CIOROMSKI President

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#### FOLKLORE OF POLAND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

For generations, the fate of the Polish people has caused them (often forced them) to migrate to virtually every part of the world. Wherever they went, Poles took with them their language, history, and culture. And wherever they found themselves, they formed schools, societies, and organizations to keep those important aspects of their heritage alive. Looking through old books and photo albums, one can find photos of folk dancers and singers from as far back as the 1920s.

Countless groups and institutions which promote Polish culture can be found

everywhere there are Poles: dance groups, choirs, arts and culture clubs, museums. Since Chicago has the largest population of Poles outside of Poland (second only to Warsaw), the area hosts a large number of clubs, groups and ensembles dedicated to promoting and cultivating Polish folklore and culture.



Just look at the number of adult folk dance groups found in the Chicago area. These include the *Lechici Dancers*, the oldest ensemble, founded in 1966, under the auspices of the Polish Scouts (*Harcerstwo*), *Wici*, sponsored by the PNA, *Polonia*, *Wesoly Lud*, both sponsored by the PRCUA, *Siumni*, sponsored by the Polish Highlanders' Association, *Lajkonik*, under the auspices of Holy Trinity Mission. I won't even mention the number of children's dance groups; virtually every Polish school has one. The Polish Folk Dance Association of the Americas, Inc. was organized in 1983 to strengthen the network of Polish dance companies in the Western world. The membership currently consists of 35 ensembles from the United States and Canada. Similarly, The Polish Singers Alliance of America (*Związek Śpiewaków Polskich w Ameryce*), founded in Chicago in 1889, is an organization of amateur choral groups primarily interested in the preservation and promotion of Polish choral music. Member choirs are located throughout the United States and also in Canada.

The major Polish fraternal organizations—PNA PRCUA, PWA—have sections and departments devoted to promoting Polish culture. The American Council for Polish Culture (ACPC), of which the Polish Arts Club of Chicago is an affiliate, is a national organization uniting like-minded groups and individuals in cities across the United States in promoting Polish culture, heritage and history, and intercultural understanding. Also located in Chicago and the country are numerous regional clubs, such as the <code>Związek</code> <code>Ślązaków</code> (Chicago Union of Upper Silesains), and, of course, the <code>Związek Podhalan</code> (Polish Highlanders Association). And, of course, there are the Polish schools, under the auspices of the <code>Zrzeszenie Nauczycieli Polskich w Ameryce</code> (Polish Teachers' Association of America). There are over 50 schools throughout the country in the Association, educating thousands of children and young adults not only in Polish language grammar, but also in Polish literature, history, and culture.

Similar clubs and societies can be found throughout the world; wherever there are Poles, there are organizations devoted to promoting and cultivating Polish culture and heritage. Among notable organizations are The American Institute of Polish Culture in Florida, the Kościuszko Foundation, based in New York, the Polish Cultural Institute of New York, and so many others. All of these have a common goal: to cultivate and promote the beauty of Poland and her heritage.

#### Polish Trivia

(This one should be easy.) October 16 marks the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this historic event that changed the shape of Poland, Eastern Europe, and the world. What occurred on this day in 1978? Send your response to <a href="editor@chicagosocietypna.org">editor@chicagosocietypna.org</a>.

Answer to September's question: Within weeks after the start of World War II, then-Cenzor of the PNA Atty. Francis Świetlik formed The Polish American Council (*Rada Polonii Amerykańskiej*) for the purpose of gathering funds and clothing for the benefit of the suffering Polish people, which was eventually absorbed in to the Polish American Congress Charitable Foundation.

#### ALLERGY AND ASTHMA



ANNE SZPINDOR, M.D. Board Certified Adult and Pediatric Allergist

1000 West Lake Street Suite G Oak Park, IL 60301 Ph: 708-848-3393 Fax: 708-848-3395

1585 N. Barrington Rd. Suite # 606 Hoffman Estates, IL 60194 Ph: 847-310-8844 Fax: 847-310-9224

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6348 N. Milwaukee Avenue, # 360 Chicago, IL 60646-3728

