



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

Volume 62

February, 2011

Number 2

The Voice of an Autonomous Lodge of the Polish National Alliance

SLEDZ/POLISH STYLE MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

NETWORKING DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY

February 16, 2011
6:00 P.M.

Copernicus Foundation
5216 W. Lawrence Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

RESERVATIONS
BY FEBRUARY 14
TO (847) 823-8747 OR
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
ARE MANDATORY

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, February 28, 7:00 P.M.
Folak's Lincoln Tavern

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 16—
General Meeting
Copernicus Center, Chicago

Saturday, March 8—
Sledz/Polish Style Mardi Gras
La Villa Banquets, Chicago

Wednesday, March 16—
General Meeting
Copernicus Center, Chicago

This year's annual Chicago Society *Sledz* will traditionally take place at La Villa Restaurant & Banquets, 3632 North Pulaski Road, in Chicago on Tuesday, March 8, 2011. Free parking is available in lots located just north and south of the building. The venue has recently been featured, and highly rated, in the Check, Please! program on WTTW.

The celebration will start with a social hour (cash bar) at 6:00 p.m. followed by a fine dinner of various entrée choices at 7:00 p.m. This wonderful event is open to members, non-members, family relatives, singles, and guests. The cost of the event is only \$35.00 per person. There will be a raffle and a time for dancing to the music of a live band. Dinner will start with *sledz* (herring) as an appetizer. There are three choices of entrées (salmon, veal parmesan, chicken marsala) being offered. For dessert *paczki* and ice cream will be served. A fine selection of vegetables and soup will top the menu.

After dinner, the pageant of a parade representing *Sledz* will be held followed by the crowning of a St. Joseph for the year 2011. The person duly selected acts as a chaplain at the Chicago Society meetings and at special occasions leading those present in an appropriate prayer. The dress code ranges from costume through elegant semi-formal to black-tie.

The celebration of *Sledz* is the Chicago Society P.N.A. version of Christian and Polish traditions that date back centuries ago. It is a celebration of carnival. *Mardi Gras* is French for Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday in ethnic English tradition. It is time of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lent season. One of the most famous places in the United States to celebrate *Mardi Gras* is New Orleans with its special parade and many colorful events.

For reservations please contact Mark Orwat at (773) 502-6969 or electronically at marko123@att.net. For the first time this year, you can RSVP for the event through Facebook. Even though payments are still due in a traditional way, I encourage everyone to RSVP through this popular social media site and thus help us popularize the event.





CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

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**MAKE YOUR MEETING
RESERVATION NOW**

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Brothers,

I wish to thank everyone who attended the Inaugural Ball and supported the Chicago Society and the new officers. The ball was a delightful event. A good time was had by all. I would especially like to thank Fr. Richard Milek, who originally served as the first director of the Bishop Abramowicz Preparatory Seminary and is currently in the role of Administrator of St. Albert the Great Parish, his Associate Pastor Fr. Mariusz Nawalaniec, and Deacon Mark Smolek for arranging to leave their very busy schedule in order to attend our event. I know for a fact that they painstakingly prepared the Invocation for our Ball and the glowing and accurate remarks about our organization leading up to the swearing in of our 2011 officers. I would like to also thank Illinois Comptroller Judy Barr-Topinka for unexpectedly inducting the officers with her usual charm and adeptness.

The weather for the Ball and now is typical of a Chicago winter, but let us keep our hearts warm as we enter February and prepare for Valentine's Day. Let us look forward to the many upcoming events for the Chicago Society, starting with the Sledz. I would like you to keep the date of March 8, 2011, open so that you will join your fellow brothers and their guests for a fun evening to celebrate Fat Tuesday and beginning of Lent. In this spirit I would like you to invite your friends as well. Let's make this a great success.

Surely, I would like to invite all of you to be more involved in all of our future events. This way we can keep our club strong and prosper in the future. I would also like to ask this of all the members. And besides our usual events, I would like to know what else would you wish to see us do as a group? I would like you to contact me concerning any idea and keep in mind it does not, necessarily, have to be a formal event. It could be a charity event, a fundraiser or something simple as TGIF with the Chicago Society. Here is your chance to express yourselves. This your club as well; your participation and ideas are what makes us strong.

Finally, if you attended the last meeting, you know we have a committee to check on the feasibility of us acquiring our own club house and a committee to prepare for our 100 year anniversary. If you have any ideas concerning these committees, just let me know them, and I will pass them on to listening ears.

I look forward to an exciting year and working with everyone.

Fraternally,
Frank Czaja



YOUR TAXES EXPLAINED

What are the important tax code changes that will affect you with this year's returns? How about some of the revolutionary changes for 2011? Will your money, through clever tax regulations, be plugging the ever growing deficit hole in the state's budget?

We may not have all the answers to those questions during our February General Meeting, but we will have with us, as a featured speaker, our Brother Member Ron Olech. Ron is a CPA and has held various offices with the Chicago Society. It has been our tradition to bring a CPA as a speaker during the tax season. The regulations change almost every year and for an average person to keep up with all that, it's almost an impossible task. We are very happy to have Brother Ron explain to us some of the regulations. If you personally know any CPAs, you know that during the months of February and March, these people are close to impossible to get in touch with, outside of their strict professional activity.

The more we are thankful to Brother Ron for contributing a few hours of his busy schedule to educate other members. Get your questions ready, the deadlines for filing are approaching fast.

During our February meeting catering will be provided by Folak's Lincoln Tavern. Reservations, as always, are mandatory.



AROUND THE SOCIETY

John Wojciechowski is heading back to his digs on the Gulf Coast in Florida as wife Teresa already headed for Arizona to spend time with their daughter and their grandchildren. Florida this time of the year attracts a lot of our brother members. **Andrew Pawlowski** spent an extended weekend in the sunny state with his girlfriend Anna Oleszkiewicz. Better watch out for all those gators!



Ken Gill spent Christmas with his cousin Maria in California. They attended mass at San Juan Capistrano. **Mario Mikoda** is spending time in Poland. **Tony Kawalkowski** had his annual gig in Santa Fe, New Mexico. **Conrad Miczko** and Barbara Lemecha danced the night away at the Polonaise Ball at the posh Surf Club in Miami Beach. He also visited Palm Beach and Orlando.

Rom Poplawski returned from a business trip to Europe. He will next be heading for a warm vacation in either Florida or joining his wife in Mexico.

Three members walked off with the monthly meeting raffle prizes during January

General Meeting. They were **Ron Topczewski**, **Jim Kolak**, and **Robert Groszek**.

The Polish Museum of America heralded its latest exhibit, A Voice of Their Own, A Centennial Celebration of a Women's Newspaper, with a lavish opening. The displays represented 100 years of the work behind the distribution of *Glos Polek* by the Polish Women's Alliance of America. The journalism artifacts will be shown until February 26. The opening night featured speeches during the program and cocktails and a buffet dinner. Savoring the event were Maria Ciesla, Lucille and **Don Gutowski**, Joan Kosinski, **Conrad Miczko**, Aurie Pucinski, **Woytek Putz**, Virginia Sikora, and Teresa and **Marian Skawski**.

Norbert Barszczewski was invited by Michael Niedzinski, the President of the Polish American Engineers Association (PAEA), to be the featured speaker at their monthly general meeting in February. The presentation will describe modern online marketing techniques and the use of social networking for business and professional development.

The Council of Educators in Polonia celebrated their Traditional *Wieczerza Wigilijna* weeks after the holiday with a dinner, a raffle, caroling, and a dance presentation. Celebrating there were Czeslawa and **Jim Kolak**, Hanna Kapica and **Conrad Miczko**, Danuta and **Michael Schneider**, and George Tolczyk, who disappeared from the society scene for a decade to marry a beautiful talented wife, have two adorable children, and further his career by becoming a principal of two suburban schools with plans to become a superintendent.

At the January monthly dinner meeting of the Advocates Society, a special awards night was featured. Awards of Honorary Membership were announced and presented. Dawn

Bode, **Warren Dulski**, **Robert Groszek**, **Thad Makarewicz**, **Conrad Miczko**, and **Daniel Starr** were at this scene.

JoAnn and **Wallace Ozog's** youngest son Christopher was recently elected National PRCUA Director from District 10-Michigan.

It is sad to report that a former member, who served on the board for a couple terms, John Magiera has died suddenly/unexpectedly by natural causes. He was 35 years old living in the Indian Woods neighborhood south of Edgebrook. He leaves his parents, his brother and sister, and his fiancée.

Kenneth Gill, Director of Personnel will be awarding anniversary pins and tags to members in honor their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th and 50th anniversaries at the April General Meeting. Since this has not been done for a few years, Ken wants to include those who were missed. Please contact Ken at 773-852-6757. Letters will be sent to members who will be honored.

Polish National Alliance, Polish Women's Alliance, Polish Roman Catholic Union and the Polish Falcons of America invite families for two big fraternal events. "Dozin' With the Dino's" on Friday, March 4 will take place at the Field Museum. The second Polish American Night with the Chicago Bulls basketball game will be on Tuesday evening of April 5, 2011 at the United Center. Families and friends are invited. Contact **Paul Odrobina** for more details.

Chicago Business Club will be hosting its first quarterly Networking Mixer on Wednesday, February 23 at the RAM Restaurant & Brewery in Schaumburg. The evening event is open to everyone looking for new business connections. Ask **Norbert Barszczewski** if you are interested in coming.

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INDUCTED TO MEMBERSHIP

The Chicago Society of the P.N.A. would like to wish the following gentlemen, who were sworn in last month, a greeting of *Witamy!*

Jaroslav Jastrzebski, brought up in Poland

Nicholas Innocenzi, brought up in Lake Forest

Philip Oerke, brought up in Glenview

Sponsors included: T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Marek Loza, Romuald Matuszczak and Conrad Miczko.

ILLINOIS SUPER LAWYER 2011 CARLTON MARCYAN

In the recent edition of Chicago Magazine, a large section was dedicated to Illinois Super Attorneys 2011.

The top 100 attorneys were selected by Thomson Reuters Service as persons who received the highest point totals in the nominations, research and blue ribbon review process. The lawyers are listed in specific areas of practice.

Under the Family Law Section is the name of our Brother Member Carlton Marcyan who is a member of the law firm of Schiller, Ducanto and Fleck, LLP.

Carlton is a certified public accountant, certified family planner, certified divorce family analyst and attorney. He is an experienced trial lawyer and guest lecturer on law, accounting and valuation.

Carlton is a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyer's and a member of the American Bar Association, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Illinois Society of CPR's. He is a past president of the Advocates Society and has been named in The Best Lawyers in America and other peer-rated publications.

Carlton's office is located at 225 E.

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

stay off the roads during these tough days. We only took a short walk outside with my wife and enjoyed the unusual moments with white mass all around us, as it was still coming down. It was fun, I have to admit it, but the feeling of having to commute to work and meetings in these conditions in the following days eventually took over.

I was recently invited to be on the nominating committee for the Outstanding Pole Abroad Contest. The Contest is being organized by the Foundation of Polish Promotion (Fundacja Polskiego Godla Promocyjnego), located in Warsaw, in cooperation with the Office of the President of the Republic of Poland, the Senate of the Republic of Poland, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, (including the Embassies and Consulates of the Republic of Poland) and "Wspolnota Polska" Association. PANGAEA Alliance is a national organizer for the United States. The meetings of the committee are held at the Consulate on Lake Shore Drive. The main purpose of the Contest is to create a positive image of Poles living around the world, to highlight the success they have achieved outside of their native country, and to demonstrate and reward their accomplishments. In the recent years, this is just one of the many initiatives on the part of the Polish government to promote Poland not only from inside of the country, but very much so from the outside. The authorities recognize that in today's world, in the era of globalization and powerful communication media, we can live just about anywhere we want, and promoting Poland, through its people, can also be successfully done from anywhere.

Last but not least, starting in July 2011, Poland will be taking over the six-month Presidency of the European Union. This combined with the fact that the current president of the European Parliament is a Pole, Professor Jerzy Buzek (former PM of Poland), creates an unprecedented opportunity for us to demonstrate the achievements of a country that only 22 years ago was under a communist regime. Just like the year 2010 belonged to Chopin, this one belongs to Poland.

Fraternally,
Norbert Barszczewski



Deerpath Road, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045.
Telephone: 847-604-6006.


Congratulations, Carl. It is quite a distinction to be so honored.

The Chicago Society is fortunate to have as our members, many qualified attorneys who are outstanding in their specialized as well as general fields.

Thomas M. Kedzie, MBA, CFP

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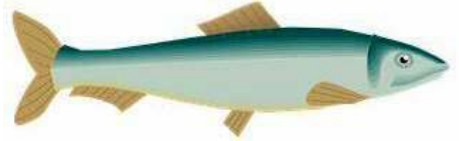
S L E D Z

A Polish Style Mardi Gras

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Social Hour 6:00 p.m. – Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Followed by Pageant and Music



Dinner Features:

Herring in Cream Sauce with Special Bread

Minestrone Soup - Garden Salad

Bow Tie Pasta with Light Tomato Basil

Oven Baked Potato - Vegetable Medley

Choice of

Salmon, Chicken Marsala or Veal Parmesan

Ice Cream with Chocolate or Strawberry Topping

Coffee or Tea – Paczki

Live Band

Raffle with Prizes

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Tickets \$35.00 – Cash Bar

2011 INAUGURAL BALL ANOTHER SOCIAL SUCCESS

Still going strong for almost a century, the club held its annual Inaugural Ball on Saturday, January 22, 2011. The Chicago Society faithful and other chic non-members from Chicagoland, with some from as far north as Milwaukee, Wisconsin and from as far east as Grand Rapids, Michigan and from as far south as southwestern Cook County and from as far west as DuPage County, celebrated the Lodge's 99th 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, and his Co-Chair, Marian Skawski, welcomed the guests. 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.

Entrance to the subdued lit ballroom proved to be dramatic, as tables draped to the floor in luxurious burgundy linen with rose colored pin-spot lighting to high-light the centerpieces of white and red roses, greens, and wisps of white décor, held in a silver tone vase reflecting onto the table, enticed the guests to be seated.

Father Mariusz Nawalaniec and two other priests offered the Invocation. The dinner entrées of filet mignon and salmon along with sherry mushroom bisque, baby lettuces with cranberries, walnuts, and cucumber with balsamic vinaigrette, seasonal vegetables with dauphinoise potatoes, and tiramisu with caramel rum sauce were then enjoyed as the patrons were table serenaded by Tony Kawalkowski and his strolling violinists.

The Honorable Judy Baar Topinka and Father Richard Milek were the Inducting Officers. Frank Czaja was inducted as the new president along with Donald Gutowski, Executive Vice President; Robert Groszek, Civic Vice President; Darek Kozlowski, Recording Secretary; Ryszard Jadczyk, Financial Secretary, Richard Ciesla, Treasurer; T. Ronald Jasinski-Herbert, Advocate; Charles Komosa, Senior Director; Richard Bivins, Finance Director; Frederick Koziol, Special Projects Director; and Mark Orwat, Public Relations Director.

At the January Board Meeting Ro Matuszczak was sworn in as Social Director and Norbert Barszczewski as Publications

Director. Charles Cwiakala and Kenneth Gill are yet to be sworn in as House Director and Personnel Director, respectfully. They were not present to receive the ceremonial induction. The out-going and in-coming presidents both delivered speeches.

Charles Komosa was the recipient of the Booster Award for having sponsored to induction the most new members during the year 2010. He received an engraved box for the storage of his archives.

Following the program, the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra provided an exceptionally well balanced array of dance melodies for the pleasure of those gathered on the dance floor. The floor was packed but always comfortable for maneuvering couples, who continued their counter-clock wise movement in style. At midnight the floor was still packed with people from tables 1, 2, 4, 6, and 10.

Members present included Lucy and Casey Baczynski, Richard Bivins, Dee and Ed Blicharski, Elizabeth and Zenon Cebula and his 2 guests, Maria and Richard Ciesla, Jean and John Cieslik and his 2 guests, Darlene and Frank Czaja and his 6 guests, Alicia and Robert Dutka, Jennifer and Robert Groszek and his guest Megan, Lucille and Donald Gutowski, Cecylia Bajkowska and Ryszard Jadczyk, T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Hedwig and Gerhard Kaes, Agata and Charles Komosa, Joan Kosinski with Wanda Kurek, Fred Koziol with Stasha, Darek Kozlowski, Marek Loza and his favorite gal, Diann and Ann and Ed Marsalek, Mark Matker, Conrad Miczko with Hanna Kapica and his 35 guests, Diane and Ronald Nawrocki and his 2 guests, Paul Odrobina with Sharon Zago, Mark Orwat, Ann and Walter Pieciewicz and his 4 guests, Barbara and Jack Skaja, Gabrielle and John Skaja, Teresa and Marian Skawski, Maria and Martin Wehing, and Andrea and Margaret and Andrew Zapalski.

The prizes for best functioning/most pleasant to deal with Table Captains, if there had been any awards, would have gone to Frank Czaja, Walter Pieciewicz, Charles Komosa, and Robert Groszek. Conrad and Marian functioned according to the recommendations printed months earlier in the "Table Captains" article in the *Forum*, but since they were the committee, they removed themselves from consideration of such an honor.

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.

It was a regal soirée as almost everyone adhered to the dress code, many traveled in a counter-clock-wise circle around the dance floor, almost everyone reserved and paid on time, dozens complimented the fine quality of the meal, many were in awe over the venue, 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.

MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS

The Chicago Society of the P.N.A. would like to wish the following members, who are celebrating their birthday this month, a greeting of *Sto Lat*.

Walter Chruscinski
Victor Drapszo
William C. Folak, Jr.
Francis Gembala
Kenneth Gill
Raymond Golenia
Edmund Gronkiewicz
James Kopka
Gregory Kosin
Terrance Przybylski
William Schupp
Raymond Sikora
Michael Szpindor Watson
Artur Trybek
Richard Wiermanski

MEMBERS' ANNIVERSARIES

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

Stanley Sawa	1971	40 Years
Joseph Kotlarz	1996	15 Years
Ronald Topczewski	1996	15 Years

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MEMBER OF THE MONTH

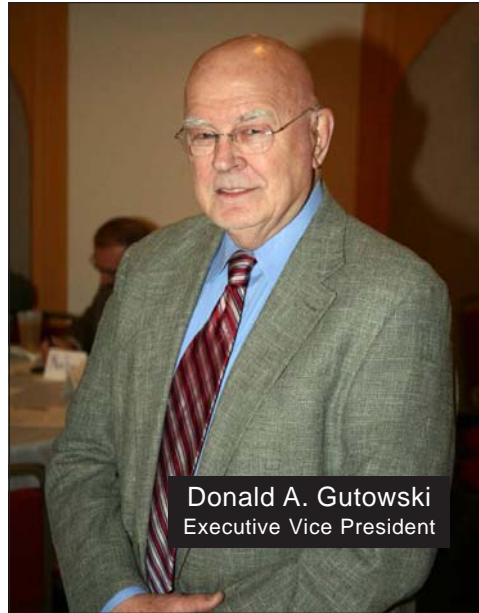
Don was born in 1931 to Adam Gutowski and Eugenia Obal (Obalewski) in Chicago, IL. Adam was from Wojslawy, Poland and immigrated to the USA with his mother Alexandra and sister Zofia in July 1913 after the death of his father. Don's mother Eugenia was born in Chicago, IL. Don's sister Corine Agliata, who now resides in Phoenix, AZ., was in the first group of debutantes for the White and Red Ball in 1947.

Don attended five different grammar schools and graduated from Reinberg. He then graduated from Foreman HS in January 1949.

He worked in an assortment of jobs from cutting grass at St. Adalbert Cemetery, driving a truck, tool grinder, forest products (logger), records clerk, etc. He joined the USAF Reserve at O'Hare in December 1950. The Air Force trained him to be a radar Technician specializing in a unit called SHORAN (an early GPS system). Upon release from active duty in 1952 he started college at the U of I at Navy Pier. He transferred to U of I, Urbana, IL to the College of Mechanical Engineering

where he received his BSME in 1956. While he was at Urbana he received a scholarship from The American Society of Tool Engineers to work in research the Physics of Metal Cutting.

He married Lucille Remus in May 1957. They have four daughters: Deann, Laura, Ruth Eva and Mary. They all have college degrees



Donald A. Gutowski
Executive Vice President

and are married. Don and Lu now have eight grand daughters and two grand sons.

After graduation from U of I Don's first job was with Minneapolis-Honeywell in Morton Grove, IL. He held several engineering positions before starting his first company in 1962 and others later.

A) Consolidated Tool Mfrs., Inc.- A cutting tool Mfrs and Industrial Distributor.

B) Hooper Inc. - Manufacturer of Packaging Machinery. Also the developer of machinery to produce the Suspends Diaper.

C) Nature Interiors - A retail furniture , clock and art retail operation (Woodfield).

D) Advisory Board Member - First St. Bank of Chicago

E) Glenbard Tool Mfrs Inc. - President-Metal Cutting Tool Mfr.

F) Real Estate Investor

G) ZEE Bullets div., Gutowski Inc. - Non-lead bullets

H) D. Gutowski Sales - Specialty Electric Motor Sales

Aside from running his businesses he has been active in politics in State and National elections. He was elected as a Norwood Park Auditor (Trustee) 4 years. He served on the Norridge Zoning Board as a member and Chairman for 15 years and was elected as a Norridge Village Trustee for 13 years. He was also appointed as a Class A Member of the Illinois State Banking Board for 8 years by Governor Jim Edgar. He served as Vice-President of the Norridge Senior Citizens Center which provides seniors with services such as Meals-on-wheels, counseling, tax assistance, veterans benefits, etc.

Don and Lu have resided in Norridge for over 50 years and have been active in their community and Divine Savior Catholic church. Lucille is a member and past President of the Legion of Young Polish Women and also a member of the Polish Women's Civic Club.

Don has been a proud member of the Chicago Society for over 40 years and served in many offices and committees. As a past President he serves as a director of the Chicago Society Foundation. He serves on the Copernicus Foundation as their Chairman of the Board. He was a part of the committee that acquired the Gateway Theater property from the Plitt Corp. that now serves as their Center. He has served as Chairman of the Taste of Polonia for 10 years.

With all of his activities he still finds some time to enjoy his hobbies of fishing and target shooting and is looking forward to spending more time on them.







HUBERT J. CIOROMSKI
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