

The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 65 APRIL 2014 NUMBER 4

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 16, 2014
6:00 P.M.
Przybylo's While Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

by April 14 to meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or 847-823-8747

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, May 5, 7:00 P.M. PNA Home Office, 6100 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago, III.

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 16, 2014—
Dinner Meeting
Speaker and Ham Raffle
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Saturday, May 3, 2014— Pre-Parade Brunch Hilton Chicago

Wednesday, May 21, 2014— Dinner Meeting Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Wednesday, June 18, 2014—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PRE-PARADE BRUNCH

The Chicago Society's Annual Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2014, in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The cost of the brunch is \$30.00 per person. Reception will be at 8:45 a.m., seating at 9:45 a.m., and a delicious plated brunch will be served at 10:00 a.m. The invocation will be given by Bishop Andrew Wypych. Brother **Mark Orwat** will present monetary awards to our scholarship recipients who will be announced by Scholarship Chairman **Brother Charles A. Komosa**. The parade is scheduled to step off at 11:30 a.m. from Columbus and Balbo Drives, across from the Hilton.

This is the 123rd Chicago parade in honor of this historic document, the first democratic constitution in Europe and second in the world only to the United States Constitution. The theme of this year's parade is *St. John Paul II, Son of Poland for the entire world*. The Grand Marshal is Mr. Edward Mika, Past Chairman of the Parade Committee and Past President of the Alliance of Polish Clubs. Vice Marshals are Mrs. Dorothy Malachowski, President of Dar Serca (Gift from the Heart Foundation) and Mrs. Anna Sokolowski, Vice President of the Polish Roman Catholic Unions of America. The Parade is once again expected to draw 250,000 eager revelers to the lakefront.

The Chicago Society will have a float and marching unit in the Parade. There will be a band on the float and space for some persons to sit. Those members who will not attend the brunch but will march can contact Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** as to our place in the parade. Information on the day of the event can also be obtained from any parade marshal. Preferred attire for the marchers is gray slacks, dark jacket, red tie and white shirt. A business suit is certainly acceptable.

To make reservations for the Brunch, please contact Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883 or 847-331-8007. Payment may be made by check to the Chairman or through PayPal at http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html. Tickets will be held at the door. Ro has been involved with the Brunch since its inception in May 1978, making this his 37th year. Co-chairmen are and Brothers **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert,** Charles Komosa and **Frank Czaja**. At the reception desk will be the lovely Mrs. Chris Matuszczak and Mrs. Agata Komosa.

CHICAGO SOCIETY'S APRIL MEETING SPEAKER

Brother John Cieslik has arranged for very own Brother Andrew Przybylo, to be our featured speaker at the April General Meeting to be held on April 16, 2014, at the White Eagle (NATURALLY!). Brother Andrew will provide a year in review as the elected Mayor of Niles, highlighting his trials and tribulations, as well as poignant observations concerning his position.

Brother Andrew Przybylo was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1951 to Ted S. Przybylo and Alyce R. Nicpon-Przybylo. He is a second generation Polish-American and his four grandparents all arrived in Chicago as young teenagers in the early 1900s. His early education began at St. Helen's Roman Catholic parish school. Later, secondary school was first, St. Thomas Military Academy in St. Paul, Minnesota, and then he graduated from Notre Dame High School for boys in Niles, Illinois. College was first Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and he was later awarded his Bachelor of Arts degree from Loyola University, Chicago, Illinois.

— Continued on page 5 —

PAGE 2 · APRIL 2014 THE CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM



CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

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Charles A. Komosa
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DID YOU MAKE YOUR MEETING RESERVATION?

Dear Brothers,

The festivities of March have passed us. The month of May again starts up with the celebration of Polish Constitution Day on May 3rd. As in previous years, we will continue the tradition of the Pre-Parade Brunch at the Hilton on Michigan



Ave in the Grand Ballroom. For more info please contact Brother **Ro Matuszczak**, chairman of the event, at either 847-635-0883 or 847-331-8007. This event will have a great showing, so invite your friends and family to join us in the celebration.

I would also like to thank Brother **Charles Komosa** again for chairing the scholarship and the committee for coming up with three winners of the scholarship competition. The three winners will be presented at the Pre Parade Brunch on May 3^{rd} with their scholarships.

Fraternally Yours,

Brother Mark Orwat, President



Dear Brothers,

Kudos to Brother T. Ron Jasinski Herbert and his committee for launching the *Polish Heritage Series Spring Film Festival* starting in April 26, 2014. All three films will be shown at the spacious Polish National Alliance Home Office. The Heritage Series is a joint venture of the Chicago Society, the Polish Arts Club of Chicago, and the Polish

National Alliance. Please see the colorful flier insert in this Forum edition for dates and times of the three films.

A special thanks to our March speaker Brian Bernardoni, Senior Director of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy, Illinois Association of Realtors c/o Chicago Association of Realtors, and his informative presentation about commercial property taxes, legislation and advocacy.

In my Award Winning *Self Portrait in 13 Questions* segment this month, I am featuring Brother *Marian Skawski*, an active member of the Chicago Society and several other distinguished Polish American organizations. I hope you enjoy this very candid and interesting article. May is an exciting time for us as Polish Americans as we celebrate the *May 3rd Polish Constitution Day Parade on Saturday, May 3, 2014, s*tarting out with the premiere Pre Parade Brunch at the Hilton Chicago . The May 3rd Polish Constitution celebration offers many related events sponsored by other Polish organizations, but the Chicago Society Pre-Parade Brunch attracts a majority of the Polish organizations and their leaders, numerous elected officials, dignitaries, and the media. That is something to be proud of as members! As the appointed Chicago Society St. Joseph...May you find the renewal of hope, health, love and the spirit of God. I wish you and your lovely family a Happy Easter and *always remember, some bunny loves you!*

I would like to wish our members celebrating Passover which in the US starts on Monday, April 14, and ends one week later on Tuesday, April 22, "Chag Pesach Sameach"; in English, "Happy Passover."

"When you stop chasing the wrong things, you give the right things a chance to catch you"!

Fraternally, Brother Charles A. Komosa

APRIL GENERAL MEETING AND HAM/EASTER RAFFLE

The April General Meeting not only offers great camaraderie, a featured speaker, but it is that time of year for the much anticipated ham raffle. This year CS House Director Brother **Chuck Cwiakala** has secured 15 delicious full hams on the bone to be raffled at the meeting on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, at the White Eagle. The ham raffle winners will be able to take the hams home after the meeting. The delicious dinner menu for the meeting will include soup, salad, breaded pork cutlets, veal in gravy sauce and many other tasty side dishes like Hop Suey!

THE CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM APRIL 2014 - PAGE 3

AROUND THE SOCIETY!

Congratulations to Brother Zenon Olejniczak on his election to 1st vice president of the Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress at an election where the counting of ballots lasted until 3:00 a.m. Other Chicago Society Polonia operatives in the crowd were Brother Marian Skawski, Brother Mark Orwat, Brother Walter Zarnowski, Brother Frank Spula, Brother Paul Odrobina, and Brother Charles Komosa.

Great news to hear that Brother **Ed Kuk** is getting back into shape and form after rehabbing from a minor stroke and a separate fall at home that left him with a few cracked ribs. "You cannot plough a field by turning it over in your mind!"

Word around the camp fire that Brother **Don Gutowski** is soon to be paroled from his rehab stint at Norwood Crossing this month. I wonder if the health care employees tried to convince Brother Don to sign up for Obamacare!

Special Get Well Wishes go out to Camille Kopielski, wife of deceased Brother Stanley Kopielski, on a health setback she incurred in March. We wish her all the best and are waiting for her to return to action. Get Well Wishes go out to Bernadette Wiermanski, wife of Brother Richard Wiermanski, recovering from a bout of anemia, dehydration and kidney related issues and is currently convalescing at Bright View Assisted Living in Edgewater, Maryland. Please visit Brother Ken Gill at St. Andrew Life

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Visit us online to sign-up for the Polonia Gazeta (Email Newsletter) www.SawasOldWarsaw.com Center, Room 333, 7000 Newark, Niles, IL 60714 if you want an educated update about the Polka scene and Polka gossip! Get Will Wishes go out to Brother Ed Blicharski, who started the New Year with a bang! On January 30, 2014, Ed and wife Dee were out for breakfast, and as they were ready to get into their car, Ed fell and broke his hip. He is convalescing at Manor Care in Highland Park and will be able to go home by the end of March/April.

The Daily Whale, a comprehensive online information service for businesses and professionals with a significant stake in government actions, recently referred to Brother Mark Kupiec: The undisputed star of Tuesday's zoning committee meeting was attorney Mark J Kupiec of the downtown law offices of Mark J Kupiec & Assoc., ... Clearly developers know a few attorneys who are seasoned to appear before the city on zoning matters — and it seems as though Kupiec is one of them.

Illinois State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka's Polish Advisory Council met at the Home Office of the Polish National Alliance in April to discuss issues, ideas and programs that positively affect Polish Americans residents Illinois. Among the committee members participating were Brother Robert Groszek, Brother John Cieslik, Brother Gary Kenzer, Brother Rom Poplawski and Brother Charles Komosa.

Congratulations to Brother Gary **Kenzer** on his 26th wedding anniversary to wife, Cynthia Palmer Kenzer. Both Gary and Cynthia work in the social welfare industry; Gary is Executive Director of PAA and Cynthia works for Rotary International. Congratulations to Polish American Association who has formalized their Junior Board of Directors. Their early efforts have been amazing with a successful multi-location clothing drive that yielded three (3) truckloads of gently used clothes for the PAA clothing closet for families in need. They can always use more donations which are promptly thanked with the necessary IRS forms. For details see http://polish.org/ clothing-closet. Call Brother Gary to ask any questions or to donate to the clothing closet at 773 427 6317.

Brother Robert Groszek, wife Jennifer, and boys Drake and Luke were spotted jet setting for a long weekend trip to San Francisco and spotted in places like Point Reyes and Drakes Bay Beach. The Groszek boys enjoyed the beach while the parents enjoyed fresh cheese and wine from the Cowgirl Creamery in Sonoma! The San Francisco treat of Rice A Roni has certainly changed with the Groszek's bohemian culinary tastes!

Brother Mark Orwat and Brother Charles Komosa were spotted at the United Center watching the Chicago Blackhawks in a swanky corporate luxury suite. After the game, Brother Orwat couldn't believe that the suite provided free gourmet mixed nuts with less than fifty percent peanuts, and Brother Komosa couldn't believe that one man could fit so many mixed nuts in his pockets!

Apologies to Brother Chris Gradziel and Brother Les Sraga, whose March birthdays were printed in error in the March Forum. Brother Chris's birthday is celebrated on March 23 and Brother Les celebrates his birthday on March 2. To make amends for this mistake, I contacted Brother Stuart Sawa, owner of Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant in Broadview, who graciously invites Brother Chris and Brother Les to bring a copy of the April Forum and redeem it for a free premium cocktail birthday drink at his lounge in the restaurant. (Note: An adult dinner meal must be purchased at time of cocktail coupon redemption—no exceptions or other coupons accepted!)

Brother Hubert Cioromski left a voice mail on my answering machine that he will be spending family holidays at Lake Titicaca, Peru, which boasts a rich cultural history that spans thousands of years. Incan mythology claims that Lake Titicaca was the site where civilization first began, and that magical powers of the Lake are very beneficial for machismo and tenacity. Ole, my friend! Or, Brother Hubert said in his voice mail that he is going to Florida, the message was jumbled, so I am not quite sure where he actually went!

YOU CAN ORDER BRUNCH TICKETS ONLINE

PROPOSED FOR CHICAGO SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The following gentleman has applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. If any member has an objection regarding the admission of this prospective member, 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: Address: Brian Bernardoni

8731 Willow Drive Justice, IL 60458

Phone:

(312)-731 -1407 Occupation: Senior Director of

> **Governmental Affairs** and Public Policy, Illinois Association of Realtors c/o Chicago Assn. of Realtors

Birth date:

February 13, 1968

Birthplace:

Chicago

Education: B.S. Illinois State University

Sponsors:

Charles Komosa

and Mark Owrat

GET PRE-PARADE BRUNCH **RESERVATIONS NOW**

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate Brother Milton Steinke, who is celebrating his 40th anniversary, Brother Mark Kupiec on his 20th anniversary, Brother Norbert Barszczewski on his 5th anniversary and Brother William Wojcik on his 5th Anniversary of inductions in April of their respective year.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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

- 5 Matt Rodrigues
- 8 Andrew Przybylo
- 9 Eugene Urbaszewski
- 10 Joseph Dondalski Peter Dykas
- 13 Anthony Kawalkowski
- 14 Richard Jakubowski
- 17 Frederick Koziol
- 26 Mario Mikoda
- 27 Michael Schneider
- 28 Joseph Hercik
- 28 John Wojciechowski
- 30 William Przybylski

SUSPENSIONS FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

The gentlemen listed below have been suspended for non-payment of dues for 2014 in accordance with the Constitution. Call Financial Secretary Ryszard Jadczak at 847-516-3333 regarding reinstatement.

Bartoszcze, Kamil Kurczaba, Christopher Siegel, Eugene Strojny, Voytek Cizon, Frank Kurdziel Zenon Folak, William Osiol, Ronald Wawrzyniak, Andrew Zabelski, Richard Kazmierczak, Walter Pawlas, Mark Korzeniowski, Bogdan Putz, Wojciech, Ziemba, Henry



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FOUNDATION MEETING

The Chicago Society Foundation Board of Directors will meet on Monday, April 28, 2014, to discuss grant requests submitted during the past quarter at LaVilla Restaurant in Chicago.



HUBERT J. CIOROMSKI President

O'HARE

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THE CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM APRIL 2014 - PAGE 5

A CHICAGO SOCIETY SELF PORTRAIT IN 13 QUESTIONS

I conducted a straightforward Q & A with Brother Marian **Skawski** about his life, reflections and experiences. It is an interesting in-depth expose of Brother Marian. I hope you enjoy reading it. <u>Editor's note-</u> Brother Marian's wife Teresa is very supportive of him and is very active in Polonian organizations.

Where were you born? Small Village Ponice in Southern Poland near Nowy Targ.

Family background (parents alive or deceased, brothers and sisters), marital status? Both of my parents are deceased. I still have three living brothers and two sisters. They all reside in Poland. I am married for the last 48 years. We have two married children, a son and a daughter. Still waiting for the grandchildren.

What is your educational background and current or past position in your profession? Masters Degree, Economics/Mechanized Accounting, from Krakow University of Economics, Poland 1966. Masters Degree, Management and Development of Human Resources, from McGaw Graduate School-Evanston, IL 1984. I worked for Western Electric, AT&T and Alcatel-Lucent for 35 years. My last position with Alcatel-Lucent was Senior Market Manager. After retirement in December 2001 I became an Independent Financial/Business Consultant working as Internal Auditor, Interpreter and Instructor in High School. I am a certified interpreter (Polish-English, English-Polish) by Language Line Solutions.

What were your first political affiliations? People? Definitely, Democrat, but they disappointed me. Nobody specific. Presently, I always support politicians who can show some good accomplishments.

How did you first get involved in the Chicago Society? I was sponsored by Conrad Miczko. I became very active from the beginning, being a coordinator for Open Meetings and Exposition for several years. At the same time I was very much involved in organizing Inaugural Balls. In 2013 I served on the Board as Recording Secretary.

How can newer members to take a more active role in the Chicago Society? After induction, a new member should be mentored, for a short time, by the sponsor. The sponsor should familiarize a new member with the history and goals for Chicago Society. Lunch or dinner would be a good way to touch on all pertinent topics to encourage a new member to become a productive member.

Do you have a childhood or school nickname? I do not remember. They always called me Marian with the Polish pronunciation.

On a scale from 1 to 10 how important is your Polish Heritage? Definitely 10. In my house we celebrate Easter Sunday by serving traditional Polish blessed food. Easter Sunday breakfast is attended by my children and their spouses. We talk about Polish Easter traditions and the meaning of each type of food that we have on the table. Each year we have the entire family, close to 24 members, for Wigilia. We serve

the traditional twelve meatless dishes. All members share Oplatek with each other, wishing the best of health and happiness. Both of us, my wife and I, support all Polish events and we are helping to organize those events.

I teach Polish Language and Polish Culture at LTHS for adults for the last five years. My class is attended by many Americans, representing many different professions, with some knowledge of Polish language and eager to improve their language and learn more about Poland.

Do you have any hobbies? Yes, I have many of them, but not enough time. My favorite ones are teaching, reading, writing, art, music, dancing, tennis and biking.

If you were named after a Polish Town, which would it be and why? Krakow. I have spent seven and half years in that town getting my undergraduate and graduate degrees. This town has a very impressive history with lots of ancient buildings and monuments, widely recognized universities, full of art and culture.

Which actor would you chose to play the role in a movie about you and your life? That would be a difficult choice. He would have to match many good attributes, which I do not find in many people.

If they made a mixed drink in your honor, what would be in it? *MaiTai served on a beach in Hawaii*.

Tell us something that your wife does not even know about you? No comments. She reads the *Forum*.

APRIL MEETING SPEAKER (Continued from page 1)

Through much of his early life, Andrew worked at his father's banquet and restaurant business. During college he thought seriously about becoming a history teacher. However, as his father's business expanded to suburban Niles, and because few teaching jobs were available, he began his career working at the White Eagle Banquets & Restaurant. In preparation for a career in food service, Andrew studied culinary arts at Harper Junior College in Palatine, Illinois. To familiarize himself with the Polish food arts and also to learn the Polish language, he studied in Krakow, Poland at the Jagielonski University. Finally, Andrew attended intensive restaurant study at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

In the mid gos he served as Commissioner to the County of Cook Housing Authority. Andrew Przybylo was a member of the Polish American Leadership Initiative from 2004 to 2005. Currently, he serves the Niles Polish-American community as a liaison to Niles' Sister City, Limanowa, Poland. Andrew became interested in politics in his early life, as his father was involved in Chicago Democratic Party politics. In 1980 he was elected to the Democratic National Convention as Delegate. He was appointed to the Niles Zone and Plan Commission in 1987 and served through 1989. Andrew was elected Democratic Committeeman for suburban Maine Township in 1992 and served through 2003. In 1999 to 2013 he served as an elected Trustee in the Village of Niles.

Andrew was elected Mayor of the Village of Niles on April 9, 2013, and officially sworn into office on May 14, 2013. Besides working at the family business, he is the Secretary to the Cook County Zoning Board of Appeals.

ALLERGY AND ASTHMA



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CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE RESULTS

The 2014 Scholarship Committee reviewed and selected three winners for the 2014 Chicago Society & Chicago Society Foundation's Scholarship. Over 63 scholarship applications and accompanying personal statements were carefully read and selected in a multiple and anonymous essay selection process. The committee of co-chairman Brother Ted Wiecek, Brother Mark Orwat, Brother Stanley Jendzejec, Brother T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Brother John Cielsik and Brother Charles Komosa, chairman.

The Committee selected the following three winners and

the monetary awards each will receive: Mr. Adam Rozanek, First Place (\$3,000.00); Mr. Alex Almodovar, Second Place (\$2,000.00); and Ms. Samantha Dziadkowiec, Third Place (\$1,000.00): The scholarships will be awarded at the Chicago Society Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch on Saturday, May 3, 2014, in the Grand Ballroom of the Hilton Chicago.

The Committee wishes to acknowledge that all of the 2014 Scholarship applicants are winners in one manner or another! The winning essays will be printed starting in the May 2014 Forum and continuing in June and July.

CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

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