



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA
Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 68

JUNE 2017

NUMBER 6

MONTHLY NETWORKING DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 21, 2017
6:00 p.m.
White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS
by June 19 to
meeting@chicagosocietypna.org
847-823-8747

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, June 26, 2017
7:00 p.m.
PNA Home Office

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 21, 2017—
Dinner Meeting & Speaker
White Eagle Banquets
Cocktails 6:00 p.m, Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Friday, July 14, 2017—
Golf Outing
Gleneagles CC

Wednesday, July 19, 2017—
Dinner Meeting & Speaker
White Eagle Banquets
Cocktails 6:00 p.m, Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 20, 2017—
Friends & Family Picnic
Busse Woods.

JUNE SPEAKER AND GENERAL MEETING

Everyone loves a surprise! A surprise party, a surprise gift, a surprise treat. Come to the June meeting for a special surprise. Second Vice president Charlie Komosa has arranged for a surprise Guest Speaker at the June meeting, which will held on Wednesday, June 21, 2017, at the White Eagle, starting with a social hour at 6:00 p.m. and dinner & meeting at 7:00 p.m. Wonder who the surprise could be. Hmm ... Maybe Sophia Loren? Selma Hayek? Or could it be Wonder Woman? Come to the meeting and find out who will amaze us.



What's not a secret is that the June General Meeting will offer great camaraderie and a delicious dinner menu! This month's dinner menu will feature Polish favorites, straight from Babcia's kitchen: mushroom barley soup French style, tatar style cole slaw with vinaigrette dressing, pierogi-potato/cheese combo, stuffed cabbage *gołąbki*, assorted Polish sausages with sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, vegetable of the day, and for dessert strawberry crepes with chocolate sauce and whipped cream, coffee or tea. Please contact Brother **Chuck Cwiakala** at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call 847-823-8747 for reservations. Please note: Any guests at the meeting must be prospective new members and you must confirm their reservation with Brother Chuck. No exceptions! At each general monthly meeting, we offer and split a 50/50 raffle for the members. Please consider purchasing \$5.00 or more in raffle tickets because you can win one of several cash prizes.

CS SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING IS FAST APPROACHING! — FRIDAY, JULY 14, 2017

The Chicago Society 2017 Annual Scholarship Golf Outing is right around the corner and Chairman Brother Charles Komosa is still keeping this outstanding outing at a reasonable price of \$100.00 per golfer with many amenities. Brothers **Charles Komosa** and **Mark Orwat**, co-chairmen of the Chicago Society's 2017 Golf Outing, invite all members, business associates, family, and friends to reserve their spots for the Chicago Society Golf Outing, which will take place at the elegant Gleneagles Country Club in Lemont on Friday, July 14, 2017.

The day will begin with a cookout lunch including with brats, Italian sausage, chips and draft beer in the outdoor pavilion along with check-in at 12:00 p.m. The Shot-Gun scramble starts at 1:30 p.m. sharp.



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CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications
Ted Wiecek

editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Visit Our Website At
www.chicagosocietypna.org

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Dear Brothers,

More progress to report! Your Board completed its preliminary review and is just waiting for proposed privacy policy language before approving new Bylaws. This project is another step toward streamlining Chicago Society administration and operation. Thank you to Brother Wiecek for your hard work in pressing this project forward. Please stay tuned.

I have been busy representing the Chicago Society at a number of past events. The Polish Fishing and Hunting Club children's fishing camp was a tremendous success. Brother Dykas and I were on hand to watch the kids have a great time. Many sponsors, including our own Chicago Society, helped make the event fun. Any of you who have kids or grandkids who like the outdoors should consider participating in this event next year.

The Polish Museum of America held its Summer Gala on June 2. Brothers Ciesla and Makarewicz were on hand to capably represent our organization. We further supported the PMA by sponsoring the event.

Works by the renowned Polish painter sculptor and photographer Zdzisław Beksiński were unveiled June 9 at the Polish Museum of America. The works are on loan from the Museum of Icons in Sanok, Poland. His works reflect a dystopian surrealism in what he described as the Gothic or Baroque manner. The exhibition will be running until September. I highly recommend you take some time to see this exhibition.

The Polish Arts Club of Chicago held its Installation Luncheon on June 10. A wonderful music recital preceded a lunch. Brothers Wiecek and Makarewicz were on hand to help me congratulate its new officers.

On a sad note: our Brother Hon. Edward Marsalek lost his grandson Peter last month. I attended the wake and funeral and extended our condolences. Please keep Brother Marsalek and Peter in your prayers.

Upcoming events include the Polish American Association Gala on June 24, the Chicago Society rescheduled Fishing Derby on June 25, and our golf outing on July 14. Please mark your calendars to participate in each of these events.

Fraternally yours,
Brother Steve Rakowski



FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

For the 126th time, Chicago's Polonia and its supporters celebrated Poland's Constitution of 1791, the first democratic constitution in Europe, patterned after our own Constitution. On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, over 100 units participated in the Parade, spanning many generations—from the veterans to the children. It was so heart-warming to see so many children and youth marching, from the Saturday schools, dance ensembles, Harcerstwo, and other youth groups, enthusiastically showing their pride in the White and Red, which the veterans so gallantly fought to defend.

What was sadly missing was spectators. I would venture to say that over 90% of those watching were Polish, and many of those were participants or their families. I would further venture that there were more participants than spectators. Where was everyone? The Parade is our annual display of our pride and our strength. But, what good is that if there is no one to show it to? We Poles are the fifth largest ethnic group in the state of Illinois. There should have been thousands of us lining Columbus Drive cheering on the marchers and showing our strength. Sadly, the only people we were impressing were ourselves.

Similarly, there was a noticeable lack of non-Polish units. It used to be that the JROTC units of many Chicago high schools participated with a marching band.

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GOLF OUTING

There will be a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course with free drinks and snacks and other surprises.

An open bar and appetizers will begin at 6:00 p.m. in the banquet room, with dinner including BBQ ribs, chicken, and side dishes, and program following. The cost is only \$100.00 per person, including golf, cart, cookout lunch, beverages, dinner and cocktails, or \$40.00 per person for those interested in only dinner and premium cocktails. Yes, we are planning for the world famous grand raffle!

Please call Brother Charles Komosa at 773-286-7123 to reserve your golf foursomes (individual golfers also welcome). Please call if you or your company would like to donate raffle prizes. Brother **Frank Czaja** has graciously accepted to serve as Tee Sign Sponsorship Chairman for the Chicago Society and raffle prize donations. The Tee Sign Hole sponsorship is still only \$100.00. Please call Brother Frank Czaja for more information at 312-520-6144.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



CHICAGO SOCIETY FAMILY & FRIENDS PICNIC

Come to the Annual Chicago Society Family and Friends Picnic, which will be held on Sunday, August 20, 2017, rain or shine. Start time is 12:00 noon. The picnic will be held in the Busse Woods West Forest Preserve, Grove #31, located on the north side of Higgins Road (Rte. 72), west of Arlington Heights Road. This is the same location as the last several years. The picnic is free for members, their families and friends. We will have brats, kielbasa, hot dogs, burgers, watermelon, ice cream and more, along with various beverages—all under a covered pavilion. There is ample open space surrounding the pavilion, and everyone is encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and pillows. There are rest room facilities at the site. Games and treats, for children. We are working on special treats for the ladies and gents. We are seeking volunteers to play a set or two of music on their favorite instrument. We are also asking for prizes for the famous Grand Raffle. Please bring your family friends for an afternoon of fun and relaxation. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs, and your appetite. If you like to donate a prize for the raffle drawing or be a picnic sponsor contact Brother **Ro** at cmatco@gmail.com or 847-331-8007. Mark your calendar and plan on coming to the picnic for a pleasant afternoon!



◀ continued from p. 2

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

There were only a handful of non-Polish units. In addition, with the notable exception of our die-hard supporters, there was a lack of politicians.

Could it be that we as a community are losing our impact, our strength? Or could it be that we have become so divided that we can no longer use our unity to our advantage? How can society look to us with respect when we don't respect ourselves?

Another area in which we are sorely lacking is publicity. Was there any non-Polish press at the Parade? Was there any coverage of the Parade, either before or after?

The Parade costs a lot of time, money, and other resources. Is it worth it? Is it attaining its desired goal? Perhaps it has come time for the Parade organizers to look long and hard at the Parade, and determine what, of any changes need to be made to increase both the exposure and the impact of the Parade. Let's make sure that everyone can see that Polish pride.



POLISH ARTS CLUB OF CHICAGO INSTALLATION LUNCHEON



l to r: T. Makarewicz, J. Kolak, J. Osada, PACC president H. Oerke, S. Rakowski, T. Wiecek; not pictured T. Lipkowski

POLISH HUNTING & FISHING CLUB ANNUAL FISHING DERBY



l to r: PHFC president B. Olejniczak, S. Rakowski, P. Dykas



Prince Mieszko I was baptized in 966 AD, introducing Christianity to the people of Poland. Discuss how over 1,050 years of Catholicism has impacted Poland and Polish-Americans, as well as how it has influenced your life.

2ND PLACE ESSAY – KRISTIAN ZADLO

Totus Tuus

As silence engulfed the Earth, many stood on their toes and others whispered to each other waiting for history to be written. Within moments, light white smoke billowed from the shingled tops of the Sistine Chapel. People in Saint Peter's Square rejoiced and excitedly embraced each other as bells rang in the background. Like dominoes falling to form a chain-reaction, families informed families across the world. A cacophony of sounds could be heard from our planet as the papal conclave elected Karol J. Wojtyła from Poland as the next Pope and leader of the Roman Catholic Church. After over four and a half centuries of Italian Popes, Pope and later Saint John Paul II would go on to perform many miracles and ultimately help unify the world after nearly a century of troubled disagreements. With the baptism of Prince Mieszko I in 966 AD, the significance of Pope Saint John Paul II clearly represents the impact of over a thousand years of Catholic history in the lives of Poles and Polish-Americans. For over a millennium, Catholicism has successfully guided our hopes and dreams and ultimately shaped us to who we are today. Despite any hardship, Polish descendants, including myself, have always looked up to our faith for guidance, enlightenment, and universal support.

Catholic worship has had an immense impact on Polish landscape and history. About ninety percent of Poles practice Catholicism while roughly ninety-eight percent follow some branch of Christianity. With the evident popularity of the Catholic and Christian faith in Poland, around every-other turn in any major city one can find a church. Alongside the many churches that provide individuals with a holy retreat of their own, Poland houses the renowned monastery of Jasna Góra in Częstochowa, which holds a painting of Black Madonna. Many Polish citizens credit the holy painting of Black Madonna with safeguarding the nation from Swedish invasion in 1655. Hence, she received the title as the Protectress of Poland. Undoubtedly, Christianity weaves itself throughout Polish history. For example, the Battle of Vienna also represents Poland's most successful attempt to resist Turkish invasion and Muslim rule in Europe.

Similarly, the massive turn to Catholicism for guidance helped many resist communist rule by the Soviet Union. In fact, Poles often credit Saint John Paul II as the inspiration in the charge against communism. Catholicism in Poland distinguishes the nation as a powerful identity relative to its Lutheran counterparts to the east and Orthodox counterparts to the west. In times of trouble, the nation could quickly find unity in its faith and receive support in decision making.

With citizens bound by patriotism and a common religion, Poland was always able to bounce back, tackle problems, and support many communities. The amount of respect and desire to practice Catholicism in Poland shouldn't go without notice. In every moment in Polish history, Catholicism has shaped its landscape and history to what it is today, underlining the importance for individuals to find a common path, collective wisdom, and community among each other.

Personally, I could always turn to Catholicism as a place for help. Fortunately, I have been baptized, received Holy Communion, and was confirmed under the Roman Catholic Church. I attended religious education early in my life, became an altar server, and currently continue to attend masses when appropriate. Thus, with my parents' initial guidance into the Catholic Church, I grew to respect my faith. My connection to my faith only strengthened my involvement in the Polish Scouting Organization, which emphasized understanding of Polish heritage by underlining that scouts should serve God and Poland. Almost always, the organization aims to form troops under the supervision of a Polish church and school. By doing so, the church provides a home of communal support for the non-for-profit organization. In turn, the organization provides community service, leadership, and skill-building activities for participating scouts in that home. As someone devoted to the Polish Scouting Organization, the possibilities and the support of the church provide extremely beneficial in aspects such as organizing events or helping with financial limitations. Alongside my respect for my faith and involvement in the organization, Catholicism has shaped my desire to help people while also being the place I can search for help. I credit my faith for giving me clear direction in my daily life. The notion that I could find support in God and family and that I could help others to strengthen their faith buds from my personal connection to the Roman Catholic Church.

Polish descendants like myself rely on the guidance, enlightenment, and support we receive from the Roman Catholic Church. In fact, Polish history speaks for itself as evident by the various moments Poland turned to religion for identity. Similarly, Catholicism lends support to me and teaches how to give support to my brethren. Ultimately, Catholicism spreads this idea that people should always help each other. Many know Saint Pope John Paul II for the tremendous efforts he put into forgiving and uniting people across the globe. Hence, as someone Polish it is important to understand that we are also here for one another. As catechized by Saint Pope John Paul II, we should be "Totus Tuus" or "Totally Yours."



We received the following note:
"Dear members of the Chicago Society, Thank you for your generous support in the 2017 White and Red Ball. Your support meant so much to my family and me.
All the best, Madeline Hodgson."

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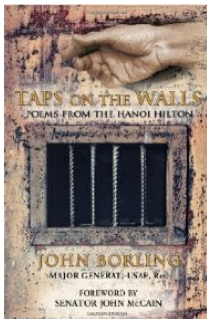
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**JOHN L. BORLING MAJOR GENERAL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE USAF (RET).
SPEAKS AT MAY MEETING**



**THE UNITED STATES
WORLD WAR ONE
CENTENNIAL COMMISSION**

Effective March 8, 2017, the Polish American Congress is officially recognized by the United States Government as an official participating "Commemorative Partner" of the United States World War I Centennial Commission. The PAC is now included on the government's website inviting full participation in the WWI Centennial by our nation's Polish American Community. Commemorative projects are being formulated and will be announced. The first official project is the Cemetery of General Haller's Recruits Genealogical Reunification Project. For more information, please visit www.worldwar1centennial.org.

INDUCTED TO MEMBERSHIP

We welcome Robert Michalik, sponsored by Brothers **Ted Makarewicz** and **John Wasilewski**, who was sworn in as a member at our last meeting. *Witamy!!*



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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



- 4 Jan Plachta
- 6 William Kolodziej
- 10 Casey Baczynski
- 16 Adam Augustynski
- Stanley Jendzejec
- 17 Krzysztof Kielczewski
- 20 Bernard Pacyniak
- 25 Michael Dropka
- 28 Donald Versen, Sr.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate Brother **Walter Kazmierczak** who is celebrating the 5th Anniversary of his induction into the Chicago Society, and Brother **Donald Versen, Sr.**, who is celebrating the 40th Anniversary of his induction into the Chicago Society.

**Do you know a
potential member?**



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Cut this out and tape it to your refrigerator

**Friday, July 14, 2017
Golf Outing**

**Sunday, August 21, 2017
Family & Friends Picnic**

**Thursday, October 26, 2017
Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner**

**Saturday, November 18, 2017
Hunting Outing**

**Saturday, December 16, 2017
Deserving Children's Christmas Party**

**Friday, July 14, 2017
Scholarship Golf Outing**

**General Meetings are held on the
3rd Wednesday of every month.**

**ZDZISŁAW BEKSIŃSKI
A TALE TOLD BY SHADOWS**



From June 9 to September 5, the Polish Museum of America in Chicago is hosting an exhibit of the paintings, drawings, avant-garde photographs and documentary films of Zdzisław Beksiński, one of the leading figures in Polish contemporary art. Zdzisław Beksiński (1929-2005) is known for his nonconformity and the freedom in which he shaped and distorted reality in his works.

Beksiński's paintings will also be presented in virtual reality, allowing visitors to take a journey inside his painting. Art presented at the exhibition is from the collection of the Historical Museum in Sanok, Poland.

The exhibition in Chicago will be a unique historical event. Although Zdzisław Beksiński's works are in the private collection of Roman Polanski, Chip Joslin, Beata Tyszkiewicz, Jerzy Skolimowski and Donald Sutherland, their exhibition in the Polish Museum will be the first time they are presented in the United States.

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**SUMMER DRESS CODE
NOW IN EFFECT**

The Summer Dress Code is in effect for general meetings of the Society. Gentlemen are permitted to dress "casually," suit/sport coats are no longer required. However, jeans, shorts, and gym shoes are NOT permitted.



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