



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 64

FEBRUARY 2013

NUMBER 2

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY

February 20, 2013

6:00 P.M.

Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

by February 18

TO 847-823-8747 or

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, March 4, 7:00 P.M.
Folak's Lincoln Tavern

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Wednesday, March 20, 2013—
Dinner Meeting and Ham Raffle
Elk's Club, Des Plaines

Wednesday, April 17, 2013—
Dinner Meeting
Site To Be Announced

INAUGURAL BALL KICKS-OFF 2ND CENTURY

The Chicago Society kicked-off its 2nd Century of Brotherhood and Service at its Annual Inaugural Ball. Saturday, January 19, 2013, was a beautiful evening, a perfect evening to enjoy the warmth of camaraderie. Upon entering the elegant Café la Cave, guests were offered flutes of champagne and gourmet hors d'oeuvres, served by the gracious wait staff. Upon passing to the ball room, guests entered a stunning winter wonderland. The tables were adorned with magnificent vases of clear Polish cut glass, with tree branches growing out of crisp white "snow," embellished with icicles and white peacocks.

The festivities began with Aleksandra Kurzydłowska leading the guests in the National Anthems of the United States and Poland. Ball Chairman Brother **Andrew Zapalski** then welcomed the guests and spoke about the historical importance of this event, entering into our 2nd Century. Most Reverend Bishop Andrew P. Wypych, Vicar for Vicariate V, Archdiocese of Chicago, gave the Invocation. In both Polish and English, he asked the Holy Spirit to enlighten our commitment and our unity. He said that we members of the Chicago Society are examples of Christianity, emulating the values of Blessed Pope John Paul II.

A gourmet dinner was flawlessly served by the cordial wait staff. During dinner, Brother **Anthony Kawalkowski** strolled among the guests, serenading them with soothing dinner music. The Polonia Folk Dance Ensemble added levity to the program, giving a beautiful performance of a "Holiday Waltz," in keeping with the Winter theme of the evening. Outgoing President Brother **Frank Czaja** then spoke, expressing how much of an honor it has been to serve as President of the Society for the past two years. He thanked the members of the Board and all the members for their support, ensuring all that the Society is in good hands with the new Board. Incoming President Brother **Mark Orwat** thanked Brother Zapalski and his committee—Brother Frank Czaja and his wife Darlene, Margaret Zapalski and Ania Zapalski—for their contribution of time and talents for the success of this Ball. We, with our sister organizations—the Polish Women's Civic Club, the Polish American Association, and the Chicago Society Foundation—form an integral part of Chicago's Polonia, committed to the next 100 years.

Brother **Robert Groszek** presented the 2012 Chicago Society Booster Award to Brother Czaja for sponsoring the most number of new members in 2012. The Polonia Ensemble then continued the festivities with the elegant, traditional Polonez, in costumes of the Duchy of Warsaw (*księstwo warszawskie*). Brothers Orwat and Czaja presented the 2013 Man of the Year Award to Brother **Stanley Stawski** in recognition of his dedication to the Chicago Society and his philanthropic support of Chicago's Polonia. Brother Stawski very simply and humbly thanked the Society for this honor.

The culmination of the evening was the Installation of the new Board by Bishop Wypych. Brother Zapalski introduced the officers of the Society for 2013. Bishop Wypych then administered the oath of office to the officers and wished them much success in the coming year. President Brother Orwat officially kicked-off our 101st year, wishing the Society greater success in the next 100 years.

Following the official portion of the evening, guests danced to the music of Brother Anthony Kawalkowski and his Orchestra. The orchestra played a variety of tunes

—Continued On Page Three—



CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the
Chicago Society PNA membership

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

Dear Brothers,

I would like to thank all the members and guests who attended this year's Inaugural Ball, which began the next century of our organization. Everyone enjoyed dancing to the music provided by Brother **Anthony Kawalkowski** and his orchestra. I would like to thank Brother **Andrew Zapalski** and his committee for putting on a wonderful event that everyone enjoyed. I would also like to congratulate Brother **Stanley Stawski** for being our Person of the Year.

I want to also thank Brother **Ken Gill** for chairing the Chicago Society Scholarship Committee and all of his hard work. Brother Gill and his committee selected three winners from the essay contest. The winners will be notified and awarded a monetary prize at the Chicago Society Pre-Parade Brunch in May.

One final note: the Board of Directors at the February board meeting voted to eliminate the convenience fee that was added to the online payment of dues for those who would like to pay by PayPal.

Fraternally Yours,
Mark Orwat

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

I'm not a historian, not even a history buff. However, for some reason I have recently become fascinated by World War II. Hitler is certainly a very interesting figure, but I've also become interested in all the political intrigue and machinations all around the world at that time, and the time preceding the outbreak of the War. The political goings-on not only in Europe, but throughout the British Empire, in the Mediterranean and in Africa, have truly piqued my interest. In addition, I find particularly intriguing the relationship between Hitler and Stalin.

Poles blame Churchill and Roosevelt for "selling out" Poland at Yalta, with the final nail coming at Potsdam. Historians to this day are debating what would Poland, and Eastern Europe, have been like after 1945 if the Allies had not agreed to Stalin's demands. How would the face of Europe look, and particularly that of Poland and the other countries of the Eastern Bloc, had the "Iron Curtain" not fallen? Was this the "best deal" Churchill and Roosevelt (and Truman in Potsdam) could have made with Stalin. It is said that the enemy of my enemy is my friend. Was Stalin truly our "friend?"

Throughout her history, Poland's relationship with her neighbors, especially those to the East, has been tenuous at best. Poland's geographical location has made her, at one time, one of the most powerful commonwealths in Europe—*od morza do morza*—and at other times, non-existent. Our "brothers" in Russia—primarily their leaders—have for centuries kept Poland under their thumbs. (Remember the joke: Are the Russians our friend or our brothers? They're our brothers, because you can pick your friends, but not your brothers.)

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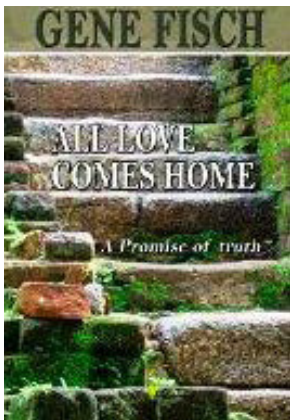
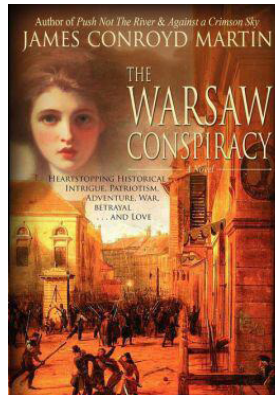


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



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Two books have recently been published about Poland's history with our "friends" to the East. From James Conroyd Martin, author of *Push Not the River*, comes *The Warsaw Conspiracy*, a family saga set against the November Uprising (*Powstanie Listopadowe*) of 1830, partitioned Poland's daring challenge to the Russian Empire. Brilliantly illustrating the psyche of a people determined to reclaim independence in the face of monumental odds, the story portrays two brothers and their fates in love and war. Michał is a seasoned veteran soldier, cautious of the evolving conspiracy; Józef, his much younger brother and impassioned cadet, finds himself caught up in the vortex of a daring plot to abduct the Grand Duke of Russia. With Siberia or emigration to France looming as heart-rending contingencies, matriarchs Anna and Zofia stay steadfast in their resolve to steer the clan through ever-muddying waters. *The Warsaw Conspiracy* is available both in print and digitally.



All Love Comes Home—A Promise of Truth (book one of a trilogy), written and published by Gene Fisch, is a historic memoir written as a novel about the 20th century's horrific and moving events preceding and including the first 22 months of WWII. This period was often referred to as "the Phony War" when the Nazis and the Soviet Union were allies against Poland. To this day, the great mystery remains: why France, England, and the world never declared war against the Soviet Union. This so-called "peacetime" was actually two decades (1917-1939) of war ignored by the world's statesmen, when 60 to 70 million Christians were exterminated. Fisch hopes that his book will shed light on this largely-ignored piece of history and

give voice to those who were witness to the mass murders of 22 million Slavic Christians and Catholics in a period of six years (1939-1946). The author chooses to share this history through the story of the power of a Polish mother's unconditional love and a father's faith, a story rife with fear and death, love of country, and insidious betrayal. His mother and father's human will not only kept the family, but thousands of others, alive with their heroic deeds. A book signing, lecture and discussion with the author will take place at The Polish Museum of America, Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall, 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL on Saturday, February 23, 2013 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

These books are perfect to enjoy on a cold, winter day, cuddled up in front of the fireplace.

DO YOUR ENERGY BILLS HAVE YOU CONFUSED?

Our speaker for February's Chicago Society meeting will be Iwona Wrobel, Executive Consultant with Ambit Energy. Iwona will explain the changes in our energy suppliers, especially in Chicago, discuss options available to us for our energy, and how we can save money on our public utility bills. Reserve your spot now for our next Dinner Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013 at Przybylo's. You can email (preferable) to meeting@chicagosocietypna.org, or call 847-823-8747.



POLISH TRIVIA

Poland's leading classical composer, Krzysztof Penderecki, is among the winners of a 2013 Grammy Award. A CD featuring a selection of his six pieces recorded by the National Philharmonic of Warsaw under Antoni Wit won in the Best Classical Compendium category. How many Grammys has Penderecki previously won?

Answer to January's question: January 22, 1983 was the start of the January Uprising, *Powstanie Styczniowe*.

INAUGURAL (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)

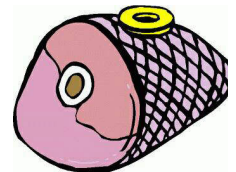
from traditional to contemporary, from polkas and waltzes to romantic melodies, all to the enjoyment of the guests. The dance floor was full of couples dancing and enjoying themselves throughout the evening, so it's clear our guests had a memorable experience. The Orchestra played its last strains at midnight, and our guests now have another evening to remember.

Gratulacje! go to Brother Zapalski and his committee for creating a truly beautiful evening. As he promised, the evening met the high standards of the Chicago Society with great food, good drinks, and high quality entertainment. Chicago Society balls have long been well known throughout Chicago's Polonia, and this year's certainly lived up to that tradition.

(See photos on page 5.)

LET'S HAM IT UP

Since Easter this year falls before our April general meeting, we will be having our Annual Ham Raffle at the March meeting, which is scheduled for the Elk's Club in Des Plaines. Details are



being worked out as to the best way of having hams available to the winners before Easter. If there are any questions, you may contact House Director **Chuck Cwiakala** at 847-823-8747 or cecwiakala@aol.com. Further information will be in the March Forum.

NEW CABINET MEMBER IS OF POLISH DESCENT

It is not widely known that Jack Lew, one of President Obama's cabinet appointees, previously White House Chief of Staff, has Polish roots. He was nominated for the post of Treasury Secretary on January 10, 2013. Lew's father was an immigrant from Poland who came through Ellis Island. Obama cited Lew's background in his speech, saying, "And maybe most importantly, as the son of a Polish immigrant, a man of deep and devout faith, Jack knows that every number on a page, every dollar we budget, every decision we make has to be an expression of who we wish to be as a nation, our values."



◇ Kristin Lipkowski, daughter of Brother **Ted Lipkowski** and his wife Loretta submitted a critique of historic propaganda post cards in the DePaul University Library Museum. She has been invited to read and discuss her paper at the Victorian Studies Colloquium to be held in April at Leeds Trinity University, Leeds, England.

◇ The City of Chicago's Office of New Americans (ONA) and the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) invite small business owners and entrepreneurs to a FREE expo, sponsored by Western Union: Where: Copernicus Center Annex, 5214 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago; When: Saturday, March 9, 2013, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission: Free. The event will feature dozens of exhibitors to help entrepreneurs launch their businesses. For more information please call 312-744-2086 or email BACPoutreach@cityofchicago.org.

◇ Brother **Charles Komosa**, National Secretary of the Polish National Alliance, still has a few of the very well received 2013 PNA wall calendars that his office designed featuring prominent Poles. Please contact him at 773-286-0500 or email: charles.komosa@pna-znp.org if you would like receive a calendar.

◇ Congratulations to Brother **Dave Uting**, a Chicago Police Officer, and his partner for being honored on January 17, 2013 by the Chicago City Council with a Resolution recognizing their Act of Bravery for disarming a perpetrator with a gmm handgun after an armed robbery.

◇ Brothers **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert**, **Ken Gill** and **Charles Komosa** attended the International Polka Association Polka Fest at the Glendora House. Brother T. Ron presented the officers of the IPA with a State of Illinois Proclamation sponsored by Illinois State Senator Brother **Dan Kotowski**. Brother Charles demonstrated the grace of free style Polka Dance.

◇ The Polish Women's Civic Club cordially invites you, your family, and friends to their annual Palm Sunday Luncheon on

Sunday, March 24, 2013, at Avalon Banquets, 1905 East Higgins Road, Elk Grove Village, IL. Social hour begins at 11:30 am, and Luncheon will be served at 12:30 PM. Raffle to follow, cash bar available. Support scholarships for deserving students while enjoying spirit samplings, a photo booth, festive crafts, and much more. Children's entertainment and Easter baskets for all ages. To RSVP, please contact Barbara Marquart at bmu-sial@aol.com or call 847-640-9910.

THE POLISH MUSEUM OF AMERICA OFFERS 2013 PULASKI DAY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Polish Museum of America is pleased to announce its continuing partnership with Jewel - Osco, the monetary sponsor of the Pulaski Day Scholarship Program. The Polish Museum of America has again been selected to facilitate this 4th annual scholarship program. The scholarship recipients will be announced at the annual State of Illinois Pulaski Day Celebration to be held on Monday, March 4th, in the Sabina P. Logisz Great Hall. The PMA will select 5 recipients, each of whom will receive a \$1,000.00 scholarship applicable for the 2013-14 school year. High school seniors and college students are encouraged to apply.

To participate, candidates must submit an essay (not to exceed 500 words, foot notes excluded) on the following subject: *Identify a lesser known contemporary Polish American who has made a significant contribution.* Essayists are asked to select a specific field and support their selection. The Polish Museum of America and its Library can serve as excellent resources for information-gathering. Essays should be accompanied by a personal statement of the student's academic and career goals, community involvement, personal interests, extra-curricular activities and/or any recent achievements. The personal statement and applicant's name CANNOT be in the body of the essay. Entries MUST be typed, double-spaced, and submitted in English. Candidates must be residents of the metropolitan Chicagoland area. The application must include the applicant's first and last name, email address, phone number and school address with the personal statement, but this information should NOT be on the essay. Submissions must be received no later than Tuesday morning, February 26, 2013 by 11 a. m. Candidates must be or become members of The Polish Museum of America.

Please email the entries to: PMA@PolishMuseumofAmerica.org or fax to 773-384-3799. Any questions should be directed to (773) 384-3352, ext. 104.

MEMBER'S ANNIVERSARY

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate brother member **Walter Zarnecki**, who is celebrating the 25th anniversary of his induction this month.



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THE 2013 INAUGURAL BALL (MORE AVAILABLE AT OUR WEBSITE)



Champagne and hors d'oeuvres were served in the Café la Cave lobby during the reception.



President Mark Orwat with former Presidents T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert and Charles Komosa, as well as lovely ladies.



President Mark Orwat presents the Booster Award to immediate Past President Frank Czaja.



Brother Stanley Stawski (right) received the Person of the Year Award from Brothers Orwat and Czaja.



Bishop Wypych (at podium) administered the oath of office to the newly elected officers and directors.



Chairman Andrew Zapalski is surrounded by daughters Margaret, Ania and his extended family.

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 J. Pawlas
Address: 13 North Merrill Street
Park Ridge, IL 60068
Phone: 847-984-1943
Occupation: recent graduate of Univ. of Nevada
Birth date: Feb. 12, 1990
Birthplace: Chicago
Education: BA, Communications Studies
Sponsors: T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert, Ken Gill

Name: Bogdan Trytko
Address: 4400 W. Addison
Chicago, IL 60641
Phone: 773-685-3200
Occupation: Owner, auto repair shop
Birth date: June 29, 1965
Birthplace: Poland
Sponsors: Mark Orwat, Charles Komosa

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

- 1 Francis Gembala
James Kopka
- 3 Richard W. Wiermanski
- 4 Victor Drapszo
Edmund Gronkiewicz
Michael Spinder Watson
- 7 Raymond Golenia
- 23 Terrance Przybylski
- 26 Gregory Kosin
- 26 Ray Sikora
- 28 Robert Martwick
William Sawicki
William Schupp

MEET YOUR OFFICERS – UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL, PART I

Brother **John Cielslik** was recently sworn in as Civic Vice-president of the Society. He was inducted into the Chicago Society approximately 17 years ago. His father was a member for almost 50 years, until he passed away in 2009. John currently works for Illinois Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka as her Small Business Ombudsman. He has also been in banking for a number of years. His interests are enjoying his family, going on vacations, watching sports and following politics. His daughter and son-in-law presented him and my wife with their first grandchild Nikolas in October 2012.



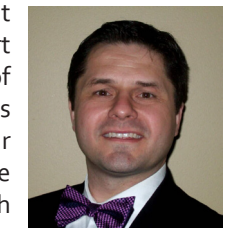
Brother **Frank Czaja** recently completed 2 terms as President and is now the Senior Director of the Society. He has been a member of the Chicago Society for 14 yrs. He has served on the Board in a variety of roles: two yrs as President, two years as Civic Vice-president, two 2-year terms as House Director, and two 2-year terms as Director of Personnel. Frank was the Society's St. Joseph for one year, and has chaired the Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, the Picnic, the Inaugural Ball and the *Śledź*. Even though he's officially "retired," he regularly works with Dunning Electric. His interests include fishing, rodeos, travel, and restoration of old cars. He and his wife Darlene have son Patryk.



Brother **Donald Gutowski** currently serves as Treasurer of the Society. He was sponsored for membership by **Mitchell Kobelinski** and **Dr. Richard Jaskulski** in 1968. He has served many terms as President, Executive Vice-president, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Membership Chairman and many terms as a director. Donald served 3 years in the US Air Force as a Staff Sgt. radar repairman. He graduated from the U. of I. Urbana, IL with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and has owned several businesses, primarily in manufacturing. He has also served 27 years in the administration of the Village of Norridge as Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals and as Village Trustee. He has been married to Lucille for 56 years; they have 4 daughters, 8 granddaughters and two grandsons. His hobbies are fishing, target shooting and volunteering with charities.



Brother **Robert P. Groszek**, currently Executive Vice-president of the Chicago Society, is the principal of Groszek Law Firm. Robert is a member of the Polish National Alliance, Advocates Society of Polish-American Attorneys, and is the co-chairperson of the Amicus Poloniae Legal Clinic. Robert is also a member of the Chicago Bar Association and the Illinois State Bar Association. Through these channels and others, Robert continues to support the Polish community and their rights. Robert has been a member of the Chicago Society since 2005. He is happily married to Jennifer and is the proud father of two future Society members: Drake and Luke.



Brother **Charles A. Komosa** is a third generation member of the Chicago Society; his grandfather Charles Rozmarek, who served as president of the Polish National Alliance from 1939-1967, and father Edward J. Komosa were members of the Chicago Society. Charles has been a member of the Chicago Society for 17 years and has served as Director of Social Affairs, Recording Secretary, Director of Publications/Editor of *The Forum*, President, Senior Director and is currently the Director of Finance. He has also been chairman of the Annual Golf Outing, Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, and the *Śledź*, as well as volunteering for many events. Charles resides in Chicago, is married to Agata and they have two sons, Charles and Alexander, both future members of the Chicago Society.



—To be continued next month

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

DEADLINE IS MARCH 1

The deadline for payment of Chicago Society dues is quickly approaching ... and it is now more convenient and economical than ever. The Board of Directors has voted to remove the on-line convenience fee previously attached to dues. That means you can pay via PayPal in the "Payments" area of our website at <http://www.chicagosocietypna.org> by credit card, delaying the actual payment during a heavy bill month while earning reward points with most cards. It is even possible to use the 50/50 payment plan with no extra charge. By attending dinner meetings you get more than you pay in dues and we encourage you to do just that. We are anxious to see you at meetings and special events.



**ATTEND OUR MEETINGS AND
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FOLKLORE OF POLAND

Before exploring the individual regions of Poland, let's take a quick look at the impact of Polish folklore on Polish society today. Many traditions and rituals, mainly based on Catholic traditions, but some based on ancient pagan traditions, are still very much alive today. Many traditional rituals, such as breaking of *opłatek*, *Śmigus Dingus*, *Dożynki* (which had its beginning in pagan times), are observed to this day.

During the time of the Partitions as well as during the Communist era, the strong Catholic faith of the Poles was one of the forces that kept the Poles strong and united. Another of these forces was Poland's rich folkloric traditions, which survived generation to generation. There are so many folkloric elements that have become a part of Polish life, starting with the legend of Lech and the White Eagle. Many artists, especially composers of music, have used elements of Polish folklore in their works. The Polish National anthem, or *Mazurka Dąbrowskiego*, is a mazurka (and should be sung that way, not as a funeral dirge as is so often heard). The most popular Christmas carol *Bóg się rodzi*, is a *polonez*, as is *W żłobie leży*.



Polish folk music, especially the mazurka and polonaise, was popularized by Frederick Chopin, and it soon spread across Europe and elsewhere. The *polonaise* comes from the French word for "Polish" to identify its origin among the Polish aristocracy, who had adapted the dance from a slower walking dance called *chodzony*. The polonaise then re-entered the lower-class musical life, and became an integral part of Polish music. To this day, the *polonez* is used to open balls and other formal and informal functions. Other classical composers who wrote polonaises or pieces in polonaise rhythm include Bach, Mozart, and Ogiński. Others, such as Moniuszko, Wyspiański, Kilar, and Penderdecki have used Polish folk motifs in many of their works. Chopin remains the most well-known, and is famous for composing a wide variety of works, including mazurkas, polonaises, and even a Krakowiak, using traditional Polish elements in his pieces. Stanisław Moniuszko, considered the leader in the successful development of Polish opera, is renowned for his operas *Halka* and *Straszny dwór* (The Haunted Manor).

While folk music has lost some popularity in urban Poland, the region of Podhale has retained its lively, colorful—and unique—traditions. The regional capital, Zakopane, has been a center for art since the late 19th century, when people such as composer Karol Szymanowski, who discovered *pohalańskie* folk music there, made the area chic among Europe's intellectuals. The folklore—music, costumes, traditions, and very distinguishable dialect—of the Podhale region, probably more than any other region of Poland, remains alive, still developing, and a very integral part of the people's everyday lives.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS CHOSEN

The Board of the Chicago Society, upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Chicago Society Scholarship Committee, Brother **Ken Gill**, approved the following as recipients of Chicago Society 2012 Scholarships:

3rd Place (\$1,000): Brittany Kowalski, attending Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, sponsored by Walter Piecewicz.

2nd Place (\$2,000): Paul Odrobina, Jr., attending Columbia College, sponsored by Paul Odrobina

1st Place (\$3,000): Samantha Dziadkowiec, attending St. Xavier University, sponsored by Mark Orwat.

The scholarships will be presented at our annual Pre-parade Brunch on May 4 at the Chicago Hilton. The winning essays will be published in subsequent issues of *The Forum*. Congratulations to the winners!

POLISH AIRPORT TRAFFIC INCREASING AT SUBSTANTIAL RATE

Research firm Instytut Turystyki [Tourism Institute] estimates that passenger traffic at Polish airports will rise 6.8% year-on-year and reach 26.3 million in 2013. The traffic is expected to keep increasing and amount to 30 million passengers in 2015.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

