



# The Forum

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

VOLUME 64

MARCH 2013

NUMBER 3

## CORNER BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER NETWORKING MEETING AND HAM RAFFLE

WEDNESDAY

March 20, 2013

6:00 P.M.

Elks Lodge, 495 Lee St.  
DesPlaines, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

by March 18

to 847-823-8747 or

[meeting@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:meeting@chicagosocietypna.org)

## NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, April 1, 7:00 P.M.  
Folak's Lincoln Tavern

## COMING EVENTS

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

Wednesday, April 17, 2013—  
Dinner Meeting  
Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

Saturday, May 4, 2013—  
Pre-Parade Brunch  
Hilton Chicago

## BROTHER MARIAN SKAWSKI TO SPEAK AT MARCH MEETING

The speaker at our March meeting will be our own Brother **Marian Skawski** (at podium). Brother Skawski has a contract with Language Line Solutions to interpret for non-English Speaking Polish people. He is also teaching Polish Language at LTHS- Adult Education.

The topic of his talk will be "Telephone Interpreting for Limited English Speaking People (LEP)". This interpreting, usually conducted over the phone, is used in the following fields: Government FEMA, Police Force, Health Care, Telecommunications, Financial Services, Utilities, Insurance and many other Industries. The main goal of his talk will be to inform members about free interpreting services for newcomers to this country.

Reserve your spot now for our next Dinner Meeting featuring corned beef and cabbage which will be held on Wednesday, Mar. 20, 2013 at the Elks Lodge at 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines. Des Plaines. Cocktails will be available at 6:00 p.m., and dinner will be served promptly at 7:00 p.m. Parking is available at the Elk's parking lot, at the First Merit Bank west of the Club and also at the shopping center across the street. You can email (preferable) to [meeting@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:meeting@chicagosocietypna.org), or call 847-823-8747.



## THE CHICAGO SOCIETY ŚLEDŹ A HUGE SUCCESS

Over 120 members and their guests—a record of recent history—enjoyed the Annual Chicago Society *Śledź*, held on Feb. 12 at Przybylo's White Eagle in Niles. Among the guests were President of the PNA and PAC Brother **Frank Spula**, representatives of the Polish Arts Club, and ald. John Arena. Following a welcome from President Brother **Mark Orwat** and Chairman Brother **Frank Czaja**, our St. Joseph Brother **Fred Koziol** gave the invocation, asking for God's blessings on those gathered as we enter the solemnity of Lent. A delicious dinner, starting with the traditional *śledzie* followed by a dinner of traditional Polish cuisine, including *żurek*, chicken, *pierogi*, and other accompaniments was graciously served by the White Eagle staff. In keeping with the tradition of *Pączki* Day, the guests enjoyed delicious *pączki*, donated by Brother **William Wojcik**, manager of Laramie Bakery.

In introducing the *Śledź* pageant, Brother **Czaja** spoke of the traditions incorporated in the pageant. These traditions stem from the Middle Ages, when people feasted prior to the fasting required of Lent. Singers travelled from house to house, with much frivolity, presenting a variety of plays and pantomimes. Our pageant included a number of "characters"; the Angel, symbolizing all that is good; the Devil, tempting us to break our Lenten fast, Father Time, the reaper of all; and the pall-bearers, carrying the *śledź*. Ruling over the festivities were the King and Queen of the pageant, Brother **Charles Komosa** and his wife Agata. Finally, our current St. Joseph Brother **Fred Koziol** anointed Brother **Ken Gill** as the Chicago Society's St. Joseph for 2013.

Brother **Kamil Bartoszcze** entertained the guests with a variety of music both during and after dinner. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the evening.

## INDUCTED TO MEMBERSHIP

We welcome **James Pieczonka**, sponsored by Brothers **Frank Czaja** and **Robert Groszek**, who was sworn in as a member at our last meeting. *Witamy!*



CHICAGO  
SOCIETY  
Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the  
Chicago Society PNA membership

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Ted Wiecek

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR  
MEETING RESERVATION?

Dear Brothers,

I'd like to thank all the members and friends who came to our annual *Śledź*, which was held on February 12, 2013, at Przybło's White Eagle Banquets. I would like to thank Brother **Frank Czaja** for chairing this successful event, Brother **Kamil Bartoszcze** for providing the music; and I congratulate Brother **Ken Gill** for being chosen as our 2013 St. Joseph. I would especially like to thank our Brother member **William Wojcik** from Laramie Bakery for donating the wonderful assortment of pączki and his continuous support of the Chicago Society.

I hope everyone enjoyed their Valentine's Day and spent it with wife, family, a friend or significant other.

The kick off to March was the celebration of Pulaski Day, which was held at the Polish Museum of America on March 4<sup>th</sup>, attended by many brother members of the Society. Happy belated Pulaski Day to all! Not too far off is our annual Pre-Parade Brunch, which will held on May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Hilton on Michigan Ave. before the Polish Constitution Day Parade. The PNA has scheduled the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the Kosciuszko monument earlier in the morning so that those attending can also participate in the Brunch. Thank you to Brother **Ro Matuszczak** for chairing this wonderful event again.

I encourage all members to attend our general meetings, which will have many great speakers and surprises provided by our Civic Vice-president Brother **John Cieslik** coming up this year.

Fraternally Yours,  
Mark Orwat



Polonia recently celebrated Pulaski Day, honoring Kazimierz Pulaski, a hero of the American Revolution who died of wounds suffered in the Battle of Savannah. Tadeusz Kościuszko is another hero of both Poland and the United States. Since the country's birth, Poles have contributed greatly to America's growth and prosperity. Poles such as actress Helena Modrzejewska, her son engineer Ralph Modjeski, cinematographer Janusz Kaminski, statesman Zbigniew Brzezinski—the list is endless—all have come to the United States and have left their mark on the lives of Americans. The many migrations through the years—social, economic, political—have seen thousands of Poles call America their new home. Most recently, when America entered Afghanistan, the Polish army was the first and largest force to come to America's aid. On the other side of the coin, one of President Wilson's 13 points to end World War I was the creation of an independent Poland.

However, if the average Joe Shmoeski wants to come to America, he encounters an obstacle—he needs a visa. One would think that, after so many years of cooperation and even alliance between Poland and the United States, such an obstacle would not exist. Unfortunately, it does. The current Visa Waiver Program (VWP) allows foreign visitors to travel to the United States for up to 90 days without a visa. Current guidelines exclude Poland, a strong democratic ally, from the VWP despite the fact that Poland allows U.S. tourists to travel to Poland visa-free since 1991.

Poland's economy is the only one in Europe that has expanded every year over the past two decades. In fact, Poland has become one of the EU's strongest economic performers, with private industry accounting for two-thirds of gross domestic product (GDP). Yet despite the fact that Poland is above the world average in terms of economic freedom and is a longtime U.S. ally, the U.S. continues to shortchange the nation in terms of membership in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Since 2008, expansion of the VWP has largely been put on hold. In other words, key friends and allies such as Poland have been made to wait, and wait, and wait.

On February 4, 2013, U.S. Senators Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.) and Mark Kirk (R-Ill.) introduced the Visa Waiver Program Enhanced Security and Reform Act. The bipartisan

—Continued Next Page—



bill encourages travel and tourism to the United States which creates and sustains jobs, while expanding the framework to welcome new countries like Poland into the program, and boost the economy. According to sen. Kirk, "Poland is a strong ally of the United States, plays a critical role in NATO military operations in Europe and the Middle East and its citizens should be afforded the right of visa-free travel to this country."

Please, contact your senators and representatives and urge them to support this Act. Certainly, you'll agree that our brother Poles deserve this honor.

### MEMBERS DELINQUENT IN 2013 DUES

The following gentlemen are delinquent in payment of their dues and are currently subject to suspension from membership. March 1, 2013, was the cutoff date for payment of 2013 dues without being considered delinquent. In accordance with the Chicago Society Constitution, Financial Secretary Richard Jadczyk is required to prepare a list of those who will be removed from the roster unless dues are paid by April 1, 2013.

Barszczewski, Norbert	Kosin, Gregory	Sawko, Chester
Bartoszcze, Kamil	Kozlowski, Dariusz	Schupp, William
Bauerle, Joseph	Kupiec, Mark	Siemion, Artur
Bivins, Richard	Kurczaba, Christopher	Soska, Carl
Cebula, Zenon	Laskowski, Slavek	Spindor-Watson, Michael
Cioromski, Hubert	Lenard, Anthony	Sraga, Les
Cizon, Frank	Lipkowski, Theodore	Startek, Tom
Dutka, Robert	Mance, Robert	Stawski, Stanley
Garrido, John	Martwick, Robert	Steinke, Milton
Ginilewicz, Stefan	Mazewski, Aloysius	Strojny, Voytek
Gladziszewski, Richard	Olech, Ronald II	Sufranski, William
Groszek, Robert	Olejniczak, Zenon	Szplit, Anthony
Jackowski, Zbigniew	Osiol, Ronald	Teschky, John
Jakubczak, Richard	Ozog, Wallace	Wrobel, Lukasz
Kobelinski, Gregg	Pacyniak, Bernard	Wyszynski, Waldemar
Kolakowski, Richard	Placek, Marek	Zarnecki, Walter
Kopka, James	Poplawski, Romuald	

After April 1, a suspended member must submit a new membership application, current dues and a fee of \$50 to have his membership reinstated. The application must then be approved by the Board of Directors. Dues should be paid immediately, via PayPal or sent to Richard Jadczyk, Financial Secretary, 28761 W. Fox St., Cary, IL 60013, to avoid the foregoing requirements.

### CORRECTIONS

That printer's gremlin caused a few items in the February *Forum* to be corrected.

- The amounts of scholarships awarded are: **3<sup>rd</sup> Place** (\$1000): Brittany Kowalski; **2<sup>nd</sup> Place** (\$2000): Paul Odrobina, Jr.; **1<sup>st</sup> Place** (\$3000): Samantha Dziadkowiec.
- Brother **Ken Gill** also celebrated his "birthday" in February; his birthday is Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>.

### SMALL ELECTRONICS RECYCLING/DONATION PROGRAM

This is a program initiated by Brother **Norbert Barszczewski**. During the spring and fall of 2013 he will be collecting small electronics that you no longer need for the purpose of converting them into monetary and goods donations that will go to recognized charitable organizations. The following types of electronics will be collected:

Apple iPods	SLR Cameras
Apple Notebooks	Lenses
Laptops	Flashes
e-Readers	GPS Devices
Tablets	Mobiie Phones
Camcorders	MP3 Players
Digital Cameras	

When donating your electronics you will make the choice of which institution to support. In 2013, the charitable organizations are:

1. Food for The Poor, an ecumenical Christian nonprofit organization based in Coconut Creek, Florida, that provides food, medicine, and shelter, among other services, to poor people in Latin America and the Caribbean. <http://www.foodforthe poor.org/>

2. Polish Museum of America in Chicago, one of the oldest and largest ethnic museums in the United States, offers visitors a range of exhibits, resources and activities related to Polish history, culture and heritage, as well as Polish American history. <http://www.polishmuseumofamerica.org/>

3. Kay's Animal Shelter, Arlington Heights, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization funded solely on donations. The shelter has been open since 1953 and is one of the oldest shelters in Northern Illinois. It's a no kill shelter.

Please contact Brother **Barszczewski** directly for more information or to schedule pick up of your electronics (224-717-9891, [norbert@barszczewski.com](mailto:norbert@barszczewski.com)). This program is independently organized and is not officially authorized by any of the charitable institutions. Results of the program will be made public in December of 2013.

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**CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE WINNER – BRITANNY KOWALSKI**  
***HOW WOULD YOU MOTIVATE PEOPLE OF POLISH DESCENT TO UNITE POLONIA?***

The best bet in getting people more active in a community is always to start with the people who care most deeply about it. Luckily, in Polonia there are many Poles who care about the community and each other. It may be that there are many people looking to get involved that don't know where to go or what to do. To persuade people to get more involved I would first look out for those who are most interested. I would ask those interested about what is most important about being involved and use their input to then create more appealing ways to recruit other people to the organizations of Polonia. I would remind those who are interested, and those who may be less interested, of their heritage. By joining Polish organizations, they will be more prepared to preserve their heritage and keep Polish traditions in their community alive. A person of Polish descent who is not active in the Polish community may be the result of distance from their family whether it is due to location or more personal reasons. Joining a Polish organization can give them a community, much like a family, to spend time with if they have no one else to do so with for whatever reason.

The first thing to do would be to personally approach people in the Polish-American community. This way, the Polonia organizations have a recognizable face and can focus more on the union of the community. A one-to-one personal meeting is where people can take action to address their concerns and effect change. This means organization leaders are listening to what is said by those people of Polish descent and being responsive. Also, by bringing people of Polish descent together it is more likely that they will practice Polish-American traditions together. By spending time together and celebrating their heritage, Polish-Americans can create a stronger community based on the values brought upon by their parents and/or their relatives in Poland.

The next step to persuading people of Polish descent to join the Polonia organizations would be to reach out further by using emails and letters. This works better by using information gathered beforehand to target people. A mailing list made up of close contacts and acquaintances of people already involved can quickly spread the word of upcoming events in the Polish community. As a young person, I find that is now easiest to communicate ideas with people through technology. Information can be shared worldwide within seconds now and the Polish community can only benefit from being more advanced. Using social networking sites such as Twitter or Facebook can especially be helpful in recruiting younger people to Polonia organizations. Most of the news that is heard by my generation comes through

some form of technology; directly targeting this form of communication has proven to be the most effective. Not only could technology make it easier to communicate with others in the Polonia organizations but it can also become a useful tool in contacting relatives in Poland. By using a program like Skype or Facebook, Polish-Americans, if they have any, can contact their relatives in Poland, and have their families in the organizations virtually. This can be mentioned as another reason to join Polonia organizations; by joining such organizations, members may in turn become closer with their Polish families. Whether they are using an organization Skype or Facebook account, or emailing a fellow member, technology can be used to influence more members and bring the community closer together.

After acquiring contacts it may be that a person does not want to or cannot come to Polonia organization meetings and does not want to be member. Think instead about what they CAN do. Utilizing personal talent can bring diversity and make more people more interested in Polonia. Ask them if they can put up a poster, distribute newsletters, help with the website or distribute information. A community is built of different people, and by recognizing individuality it can encourage people to be more comfortable in being involved in an organization with people of the same heritage. Common bonds and freedom of self can bring the people in Polonia together. All of these things can make the Polish community stronger.

In order to keep people involved in Polonia organizations, constant contact with people must be made to see how they are getting on. Getting someone to do one thing for his or her community is rarely the end of the story. It is often the case that people who do one thing for the community gain the confidence to do something else and that first, small task becomes the first step on the road to them becoming an organization representative. Polish organizations are meant to bring together the people in the Polish community through the commonality of their heritage. A larger Polish community will help the heritage stay alive and keep our Polish traditions active in our society. Since practicing Polish traditions is a huge part of our culture I think that being able to do that through organizations would be enough to influence someone of Polish descent to become more involved. By grouping people of Polish descent together a strong bond can already be made, by encouraging involvement in a constant time frame you can keep the community unified and harmonious.

*[Editor's note: The above essay was edited for mechanics, but not for content.]*

### POLISH TRIVIA

Staying with the theme of classical music, this man was a Polish composer and orchestral conductor. January 25, 2013 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. He was one of the major European composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and one of the preeminent Polish musicians during his last three decades. He earned many international awards and prizes. His compositions (of which he was a notable conductor) include four symphonies, a Concerto for Orchestra, a string quartet, several instrumental concertos and orchestral song cycles. He gave artistic support to the Solidarity movement. Near the end of his life, he was awarded the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest honor. Who is this man?

Answer to January's question: Krzysztof Penderecki has won three Grammy awards previous to this year.

## DO YOUR ENERGY BILLS HAVE YOU CONFUSED?

Our speakers for February's Chicago Society meeting were Iwona Wrobel; Executive Consultant, and Jim Celarek, Energy Consultant with Ambit Energy. Ms. Wrobel began by stating that instead of the American dream, many are now living the American nightmare. There is so much confusion and misinformation regarding the new energy supplier in Chicago.

Mr. Celarek began by saying that a number of states, among them Illinois, have deregulated suppliers of energy: natural gas and electricity. In Chicago, Commonwealth Edison is still the sole deliverer of electricity, but now there are a number of suppliers from which consumers can choose. Mr. Celarek urged everyone to pay close attention to the contract with a given supplier for different clauses regarding the rates charged. Some offer a variable rate, which an increase or decrease every month. Others offer a term rate, usually for 12 months.

Mr. Celarek then gave a presentation on Ambit Energy, its history, its current business condition and how this supplier can save the consumer money, together with a number of incentives available to new customers.

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## MEET YOUR OFFICERS UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL, PART II

Brother **Richard Jadcak** is continuing in his position as Financial Secretary of the Society. In this position, he is responsible for maintaining membership records as well as financial deposits to the Society. Previously, he has served as Director of Personnel and Treasurer. He has been a member of the Society since 2001. He is married to Cecylia. Both his daughter and grandson are members of the Polish National Alliance. He has his own insurance company. Weekends usually see him on the "pitch" (soccer field), playing for Eagles Sport Club.



Brother **Ro Matuszczak** is currently the Director of Social Activities. He has been a member of the Chicago Society for over 55 years. He has been a seven-time past president, has held various positions as an officer and director. Brother Ro has chaired many events and is the recipient of two Man of the Year Awards, as well as numerous commendations for his work in the community and professionalism in travel. He has also served as president of various other organizations. Ro is especially proud of his 49 years as Chairman of the Deserving Children's Christmas Party, and his 35 years involvement with the Chicago Society Pre-Parade Polish Constitution Day Brunch. Ro has been active in the travel business for over 60 years in the firm his father founded in 1920. He is married to Chris Matuszczak and has eight children and ten grandchildren.



Brother **Marian Skawski** currently serves as Recording Secretary of the Chicago Society. Currently, Brother Skawski has a contract with Language Line Solutions to interpret for non-English Speaking Polish People. Also, he is teaching Polish Language in LTHS-Adult Education. For several years Brother Marian was the Vice Chairman of the Annual Chicago Society Inaugural Balls. In addition to the Society, Brother Marian is on the Advisory Board for the Bishop Abramowicz Seminary, a National Director for Polish American Congress and the Chairman of the Auditing Committee for the John Paul II Foundation, Chicago Chapter. Prior to the last function he was the President of the John Paul II Foundation, Chicago Chapter.



Brother **John A. Wojciechowski** is currently Director of Personnel. He was inducted into the Chicago Society in 1991. He was chosen Chicago Society member of the month in 1997. He has served as Director of Personnel in 2009 and 2101, as has assisted in organizing the Deserving Children's Party, the Golf Outing, and the Casino Nights. He is currently Vice-president for Public Relations/Treasurer of the Copernicus Foundation. Now that he is enjoying the luxury of retirement, he enjoys golf, boating, and travel. He has three daughters and several grandchildren.



## POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PRE-PARADE BRUNCH

The annual Chicago Society Pre-Parade Brunch will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2013, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago. Please save the date! Complete information will be printed in the April Forum. If advance information is needed, contact Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883.

Chicago Society scholarships will be awarded at the brunch.

## 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: Andrew Csoke  
 Address: 7518 Florence Ave  
 Downers Grove, IL 60516  
 Phone: 630-415-9040  
 Occupation: Sales manager, Rehau  
 Construction  
 Birth date: November 11, 1969  
 Birthplace: Chicago  
 Education: BS, Business  
 Sponsors: Mark Orwat,  
 Charles Komosa

Name: Jan Stefan Plachta  
 Address: 6954 N Moselle  
 Chicago, IL 60646  
 Phone: 773-775-7599  
 Occupation: Senior Structural Engineer,  
 US Corps of Engineers  
 Birth date: June 4, 1938  
 Birthplace: Poland  
 Sponsors: Mark Orwat,  
 T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert

## MARCH 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!*

- 9 Joseph Bauerly
- 10 Charles Komosa  
Edmund Nowak
- 14 Milton Steinke
- 16 Paul Odrobina  
Marek Placek
- 18 Jerry Sufranski
- 20 Les Sraga
- 21 Dale Ihssen  
Joseph Santoro
- 22 Alfred Kotlarz
- 23 Christopher Grzadziel  
Daniel Pikarski
- 24 Mitchell Pasiewicz  
William Sufranski
- 26 Voytek Stroiny
- 27 Ted Szywala

## MEMBERS' ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother members, who are celebrating the anniversary of their induction this month, for their many years of membership.

- |                    |      |          |
|--------------------|------|----------|
| Waldemar Wyszynski | 1998 | 15 years |
| Richard Zabelski   | 1998 | 15 years |

## 2013 OUTSTANDING POLE ABROAD CONTEST

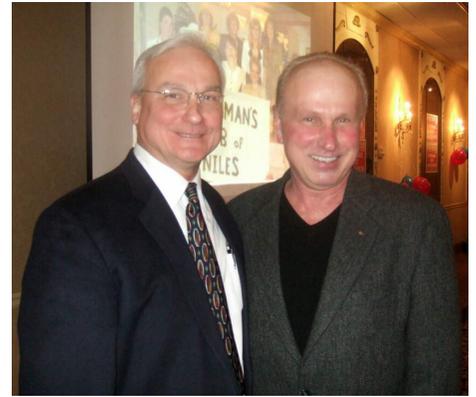
The contest is organized by the Polish Promotional Emblem Foundation. The contest is further organized in cooperation with the Senate of the Republic of Poland, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (through the assistance of Polish Embassies and Consulates abroad), the Office of the President of the Republic of Poland and in association with *Wspólnota Polska*. In the United States, the role of organizer and coordinator of this competition was given to Pangea Alliance. Because this contest spans across the entire United States, the Consulates of the Republic of Poland in New York and Chicago are part of the organizational efforts.

The main goal of the contest is to create and promote a positive image of Poland through validation and support of Polish people living in the USA, people who have achieved great accomplishments and have succeeded in the country they live in. The purpose of this contest is to:

- ◊ create a positive image of Poles living around the world;
- ◊ highlight the successes they have achieved outside of their native country, and
- ◊ highlight and reward their accomplishments.



—Continued on Page 7—



PNA President **Frank Spula** expressed support for **Andrew Przybylo** (left), Candidate for Mayor of Niles, at rallies this month. Both are Chicago Society members



Brother **Robert Groszek** (center) attended the Pulaski Day Commemoration on March 4. He is pictured with Judge Diann Marsalek and leaders of the Polish American Police Association.



Brother **Tony Kawalkowski** serenaded guests at the White and Red Ball of the Legion of Young Polish Women.

## SURPRISE! SURPRISE!

On Saturday, February 23, 2013, a surprise party was held for Brother Judge **Ed Marsalek** and his wife Ann to celebrate their 53<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary, which was organized by their daughter, Judge Diann Marsalek. Among the many friends and relatives present were Brother **Ro Matuszczak** and his wife Chris, long-time friends of the Marsalek family. It was a most joyous occasion. *Sto Lat!* to Ed and Ann.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR  
THE PRE-PARADE BRUNCH  
MAY 4, 2013**

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## POLISH FOLKLORE

Let's begin our folkloric tour of Poland with the oldest region of Poland, Wielkopolska (Greater Poland). Legend has it that it is here that Lech settled and founded a new people. At that time, this was the home of the Slavic tribe *Polanie*. Poland's first capital Gniezno was in this region, and it is here that Mieszko I was baptized, thereby bringing Catholicism into Poland.



Permit me to digress a bit here and tell you the legend of Lech, if you don't know it already. Many, many years ago, a father sent his sons out to explore new lands; these sons were Lech, Czech, and Rus. Rus settled in what is now Russia, Czech in what is now the Czech Republic, and Lech settled in what is now western Poland. According to legend, Lech fell asleep under a tree, and when he woke he saw a white eagle flying across the red morning sky. It was there that he decided to settle and form a new nation, with the white eagle on a red background as its emblem. The country's first capital was Gniezno, a derivative of the word *gniazdo*, meaning nest.

The costumes worn throughout the region, in its subregions of Szamotuły, Biskupizna, Dąbrowka, and others, are characterized by a solid dress and bodice for women, in various shades of blue and green, with a white, often embroidered, apron. Characteristic of this region is the bonnet worn by both maids and married ladies. These bonnets are made of tulle, often decorated with embroidered flowers in a variety of colors.

Due to the region's proximity to Germany, both the dances and folk music of Wielkopolska reflect a major Germanic influence. Folk music from this region highlights the sounds of a very popular instrument whose popularity rose in the Middle Ages, *dudy*, the bagpipe. Bagpipe-players usually come from families with rich musical traditions. Many of them make instruments and teach younger generations of musicians. Bagpipe bands do not take part in ceremonies or dance events as intensively as before. Wielkopolska folk songs are strongly influenced by instrumental tunes. Melodically, they are bound up with the scale, playing technique and musical capacities of the bagpipe. The dances and songs of Wielkopolska are generally very playful, often flirtatious, and at times, bawdy.

### OUTSTANDING POLE (Continued from Page 6)

All candidates must be citizens of Poland, or be of Polish descent and reside legally outside of Poland. A candidate can only be nominated in one category.

This competition is divided into five categories:

- ✓ **Business:** Eligible candidates are those who conduct a documented business activity or hold distinguished positions in the corporate environment.
- ✓ **Culture:** Eligible candidates are those who create art: composers, writers, painters etc. as well as those who promote Polish culture.
- ✓ **Science:** Eligible candidates are those who work as scientists or teachers at institutions outside Poland.
- ✓ **Personality:** Eligible candidates are those who involved in extraordinary activities and initiatives, including but not limited to charitable character.
- ✓ **Young Pole:** Eligible candidates are under 35 years old, are successful in any of the above categories, or those whose activities have a positive impact on the local communities and are responsible for creating a positive image of Poles and Poland.

The deadline to submit candidates' application forms is March 18<sup>th</sup>. They should be sent electronically through the Pangea Alliance web site at [www.pangealliance.org](http://www.pangealliance.org), or mailed as hard copies to either one of the Consulates of the Republic of Poland in the United States. Further details of the contest as well as a copy of the application are available at the above website. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Brother **Norbert Barszczewski** at 224-717-9891 or electronically at [norbert@barszczewski.com](mailto:norbert@barszczewski.com).

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