

of the Chicago Society, Group 1450 PNA Celebrating 100 Years of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 63 OCTOBER 2012 NUMBER 10

DINNER NETWORKING **MEETING** WEDNESDAY

October 17, 2012 6:00 P.M. Elks Club 495 Lee Street Des Plaines, Illinois

RESERVATIONS BY Otober 15 TO 847-635-0883 OR meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

NEXT BOARD MEETING

ARE MANDATORY

AND FORUM DEADLINE Monday, November 5, 7:00 P.M. Folak's Lincoln Tavern

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, October 17— General Dinner Meeting Elks Club, Des Plaines

Thursday, November 1— Candidates' Forum and Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner, Eagles Club

Thursday, November 8— Night at the Races Maywood Park Race Track

Wednesday, November 21— Thanksgiving Dinner Meeting Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets

CANDIDATES' FORUM AND CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

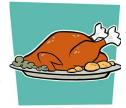
The Chicago Society invites all members and friends to its Candidates' Forum and Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner. This traditional event will be held on Thursday, Nov. 1 at the Eagles Club, 5844 N. Milwaukee in Chicago. Guests will have the opportunity to meet candidates for a number of elected offices and hear where the candidates stand on many social and political issues affecting all of us.



The cost of this event is \$30, which includes an open bar and corned beef and cabbage from Harrington's. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. with cocktails, and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html or by contacting the Chairman Brother Charlie Komosa at 773-746-7430.

TURKEY RAFFLE AND OKTOBERFEST AT OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 17, at the Elk's Club at 495 Lee Street, 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. A map showing the location of the Club is on page 7.



A sit-down dinner with an Oktoberfest theme of a variety of sausages and other goodies will be served. There will also be a pitcher of beer on each table. Our annual turkey raffle will be

held at this meeting since our November meeting falls on the day before Thanksgiving. Please make your reservation as early as possible so we can order enough dinners. If there are any questions, please contact Brother Ro Matuszczak, House Director, at 847-635-0883.

CHICAGO SOCIETY BUSINESS EXPO

The following brother members participated in the Expo at the September meeting:

Kamil Bartoszcze – KBE Entertainment and Techny Crafters

John Cieslik – representing the Illinois Comptroller, Judy Baar Topinka

Joseph Dondalski – Financial planner, Merrill Lynch

Ken Gill - Polish Museum of America & PRCUA

Robert Groszek - Law Offices of Robert Groszek & Associates

Dale Ihssen – TransAmerica Financial Group

Richard Jadczak – Richard J. Money, Inc.

T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert – Polonia Today and Polonia Media Network

Anthony Kawalkowski – Orchestra Leader, Physical Conditioning

Gary Kenzer – Polish American Association

Marcin Krempa – Remax Realty

Ro Matuszczak – Matco Travel

Andrew Pawlowski – Pantheon Apartments, Kraków

Robert Radkowski – BMO/Harris Bank

Les Sraga – representing Stawski Imports

Each participant had a chance to say something about his business. It was a successful evening. Brother John Cieslik, Chairman, thanks all those who participated. PAGE 2 · OCTOBER 2012 THE CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM



CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR MEETING RESERVATION?

Gentlemen,

We are headed into October. Fall is in full swing. The leaves changing color put on a wonderful display of tranquility. Hope you had a chance to spend a Sunday afternoon just driving through the woods observing the fall colors. How peaceful. Baseball is almost over for the



season. Of course the Cubs are not to be found in the October madness. Well, there's always next year for the Cubs. The Sox are a possibility at the time of this writing; let's give a cheer for a Chicago team. Football is in full swing. Homecomings, parent's weekends, enjoying the atmosphere of a college game. Rounding out October, of course, is Halloween. The ghosts and goblins and other assorted characters will be making their rounds looking for their treats. Be safe: supply the treats and spare yourself the tricks.

Well, the 100 year celebration is almost to an end. The anniversary gala was held on Oct. 6, 2012. I would like to thank Brother T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert and his committee Brothers Charles Komosa, Ro Matuszczak, Ron Topczewski and Ted Wiecek, along with Darlene Czaja, for the outstanding effort and time they dedicated to this Gala. They made the 100 year celebration an exciting and fun event. I would also like to thank everyone who took out an ad and attended the Gala.

Finally, remember October is Polish Heritage Month. Try and spread our heritage. Attend the different observances throughout the area. Let others know about our rich history and be proud. I am proud to receive, on behalf of the Chicago Society, the Distinguished Organization Award which will be presented to the Society from the Council of Educators in Polonia on October 26, 2012.

The September meeting with our members' business expo was a true success. I would like to especially thank Brother **John Cieslik** for being chairman of this event. He did not hesitate when asked to return as the chairman. He coordinated, with Brother Matuszczak, the members who participated. Everyone was certainly amazed at the variety of businesses that are run by our members. Everyone is more aware of the types of businesses and now will be able to support our brother members. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to display their business.

Now be prepared for a fun November. First, we will be having our Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner chaired by Brother **Komosa** on November 1st. Next will be the Chicago Society's Night at the Races on November 8th, which is chaired by Brother **Fred Koziol**. So make plans and join us for some great fun and camaraderie.

Remember, we are the Chicago Society!

Fraternally, Frank Czaja

CHICAGO SOCIETY TO BE HONORED

The Council of Educators in Polonia will present the 15th Annual Polish Heritage Celebration on Friday, Oct. 26, 2012, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis in Chicago. A number of awards and scholarship will be awarded at this event. The Distinguished Organization Award will be presented to the **Chicago Society PNA**. Individual awards will be presented to:

- Jan Aaftink—Special Award
- Danuta Schnieder (wife of Brother Michael Schneider)—Educator of the Year
- Brother James Kolak—Community Service Award
- Joanne Les—Alumni in Education Award.

This event was started 15 years ago by the late Marlene Gill and her husband Brother **Kenneth Gill**. All brother members and their guests are invited. Reservations are required by calling Ken Gill at 773-852-6757.

GET WELL WISHES

Brother **Tony Szplit** recently underwent surgery. He is now home, recovering. We all wish him a speedy and complete recovery

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COMM. PATLAK TO SPEAK ABOUT PROPERTY TAXES AT THE OCTOBER MEETING

Our speaker at the October General meeting will be Dan Patlak, Commissioner of the Cook County Board of Review. Mr. Patlak was sworn in as a Commissioner of the Cook County Board of Review on December 6, 2010. He is fulfilling his pledge to work as the first ever full-time commissioner at the Board.

Comm. Patlak is a Graduate of the Real



Estate Institute (GRI) and has been a member of both the National and Illinois Realtors Associations for more than twenty years. As a vol-

unteer coordinator for Citizens against Government Waste from 1992 to 1994, he organized "Taxpayer Action Day Rallies" in successive years at the Kluczynski Federal Building and the Daley Plaza to draw attention to wasteful government spending. He also testified before the Cook County Board in 1992 in opposition to the original \$.75 county sales tax. Mr. Patlak was employed at the Cook County Board of Review from January 1999 to December 2006. He served as a property assessment appeal analyst for Commissioner Maureen Murphy specializing in residential, commercial apartment and exempt properties. In addition, Mr. Patlak represented the Board of Review at over 500 Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) oral hearings. Maureen Murphy's office conducted over 300 Property Assessment Appeal Seminars during her eight years in office; Mr. Patlak served as her surrogate speaker at more than 60 of those seminars.

Comm. Patlak will speak to us about the Board of Review as opposed to the Cook County Assessor: the differences, and the appeal processes. This will be a "hands-on" presentation; he will also have the necessary forms available and will offer guidance in filling out those forms.

DON'T MISS THE CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER



I am writing this on the eve of our celebration of the Society's 100th Anniversary. Wow! We always sing *Sto lat*!, but that rarely actually occurs. As I was researching material "from the annals," I was both shocked and impressed by all the good that the Society has done over the past 100 years for Polonians from all walks of life and of many ages. The fact that both the Polish American Asso-

ciation and the Polish Women's Civic Club grew out of the Society is evidence of the sacrifice and concern for Polonia exhibited by the Society members. The talent and camaraderie shared by the brother members is amazing, as is the strength of the Society's traditions. Did you know that there are 9 brothers who have been active members for over 50 years? That is a testament to the strength and attraction of the Society.

I am still a relatively new member of the Society, although I've known about the Society for many, many years. My grandmother lived just a block from the clubhouse at 2222 N. Kedzie, and she took me to numerous events there. My *drużyna* (Polish Boy Scout troop) held many social events there: dances, *opłatki*, *swięcone*, and other social events. I also vividly recall working in the coat room on numerous occasions. That clubhouse always seemed to be very warm and welcoming. Maybe someday we can find a new place to call "home."

The Chicago Society has persevered for 100 years thanks to the strength of its tradition and its ability to meet the needs of its members. It is certainly one of the most highly revered organizations in Polonia today as evidenced by the number of ads that came in from many our friends and supporters—politicians, businessmen, and so many other professionals. I trust that the rich traditions of the past 100 years secure the success of the Society for future generations.

A NIGHT AT THE RACES

Come to an evening at the races with your brother members, family and friends in a front row seat to enjoy live harness racing at Maywood Park Racetrack in Maywood



on Thursday, Nov. 8. Your donation of \$25 gets you VIP treatment at the park: valet parking, a program book, group race dedication, with a buffet dinner in the elegant Winners' Circle dining room. Dinner will be served from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., with Post time at 7:10 p.m. The park is located at 8600 W. North Ave. at First Ave. in May-

wood. Entrance to the parking lot is off of Fifth Ave, south of North Ave. Tickets can be purchased by check or cash from Brother Fred Koziol 773-297-7768, or via Paypal at our website, http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.

CONDOLENCES

Althea Przybylo Kroger, sister of Brother **Andrew Przybylo**, passed away recently. Our condolences go to Brother Andrew and his family.

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ART FOR HEART

As part of National Polish Heritage Month, Art for Heart 2012 is proud to present Chicago's talented Polish and Polish-American artists and share their works with the community. All are invit-

ed to view the latest works by renowned contemporary Polish artists during the entire



week of October 22th. A private preview and multi-association group networking event will be held on Thursday, October 25th. Members of the Chicago Society are invited to this event.

Meet the artists and enjoy a night surrounded by Polish culture with music, appetizers and a cash bar on Saturday, Oct 27th from 6-10 p.m. at The Polish Museum of America, located at 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL. Tickets will be available in advance for \$10 through the Art for Heart website; and \$15 at the door. All original artwork and less expensive prints will be available for sale.

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6TH!

Election Day is coming on November 6th, just a few weeks from now. But other important dates are coming up even quicker—don't lose your right to vote by not being registered!

Last day to register: October 9, 2012 Grace Period Registration and Voting: Oct. 10 through Nov. 3



Early Voting for Election: Oct. 22 through Nov. 3

General election:

CTIONS November 6, 2012

Not sure if you are registered? You can

check online at: http://www.elections.state.il.us/VotingInformation/RegistrationLookup.aspx

EXCORCIST MAGAZINE

A group of Polish Catholic priests has come together to produce a monthly magazine devoted to the topic of exorcism. Egzorcysta [Exorcist] magazine responds to a need arising from a sharp increase in reports of demonic possession, the founders say.

FROM THE ANNALS OF THE CHICAGO SOCIETY

The work of the Chicago Society has set an example to Polish communities in other cities and inspired formation of such units as the Cleveland, Detroit, Toledo, Buffalo. Grand Rapids, and Milwaukee Societies, which are emulating our spirit of achievement in this metropolis.

That we are not resting on our laurels is proved by our most ambitious project to swell our Social Welfare and Educational Funds, namely by our Polish Day Celebration, July 19th, 1925, at Riverview Park. The committee has prepared an interesting program, which includes addresses by prominent citizens, athletic exercises by various Polish gymnastic associations, singing contests, races, games, and the other entertainment as offered by the park. The benefit for which the Polish Day is arranged is a worthy one, and we wish to extend our hearty thanks to all those who, by their presence at this celebration or by their advertising in the columns of the enlarged edition of the Chicago Society News, have contributed to the success of our undertaking. Your support assures us that the Polish Day Festival will have been a notable achievement.

Excerpted from Chicago Society News from 1925 (forerunner of The Forum)

POLISH TRADITIONS IN OCTOBER

October is actually a quiet month; there are no holidays or traditional celebrations, except for *imieniny* and the occasional wedding. October, however, was a turning point in Poland under the communists—the "Fourth Partition." *Polski październik* (Polish October) marked a change in the Polish internal political scene in the second half of 1956. Some social scientists term it the Polish October Revolution, which, while less dramatic than the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, had an even deeper impact on the Eastern Bloc and on the Soviet Union's relationship to its communist satellites in Eastern Europe.

For Poland, 1956 was a year of transition. The international situation, particularly the deaths of the Soviet Union's leader, Joseph Stalin, and of Polish communist leader Bolesław Bierut, significantly weakened the hardliners' Stalinist faction in Poland. Protests in June by workers in Poznań highlighted the people's dissatisfaction with their current situation. The events set in motion resulted in the reformers' faction, led by Władysław Gomułka, taking power. After brief but tense negotiations with the Soviet Union, the Soviets gave permission for Gomułka to stay in control, and made several other concessions resulting in wider autonomy for the Polish government. For Polish citizens, this meant the temporary liberalization of life in Poland. Eventually, hopes for full liberalization were proven false, as Gomułka's regime became more oppressive; nonetheless, the era of Stalinization in Poland had ended.

Gomułka, in his public speeches, criticized the hardships of Stalinism and promised reforms to democratize the country; this was received with much enthusiasm by Polish society. By mid-November, Gomułka had secured substantive gains in his negotiations with the Soviets: the cancellation of Poland's existing debts, new preferential trade terms, abandonment of the unpopular Soviet-imposed collectivization of Polish agriculture, and permission to liberalize policy towards the Roman Catholic Church.

In the aftermath of the October events, many Soviet "advisers" left Poland, signaling that Moscow was willing to grant Polish communists slightly more independence. The Polish government rehabilitated many victims of the Stalinist era, and many political prisoners were set free. Among them was Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński. The Polish legislative election of 1957 was much more liberal than that of 1952 although still not considered free by Western standards.

Did you know? October in Polish is *październik*, from the word *paździerze*, meaning "waste from flax or hemp."

Gdy październik ciepło trzyma, zwykle mroźna bywa zima. (When October is warm, there will usually be a cold winter.)

CHECK OUR WEBSITE TO KNOW WHAT IS AHEAD CLICK "CALENDARS" AND THEN "EVENTS"

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News Briefs

Prepared and Distributed by the Polonia Media Network

LOT, Poland's national air carrier, has launched sales of tickets for Dreamliner flights that will be available to passengers starting in December. The first Boeing 787 Dreamliner will service flights to European capitals, in an attempt to encourage customers to take advantage of LOT's longer-haul flights. LOT is currently the only European airline operating Boeing 787 Dreamliners in its fleet. The first transatlantic flight to Chicago has been scheduled for January 2013. Toronto and New York will be added to the itinerary in February, while Beijing will be included in March.

A military bunker in Northeastern Poland, where some German army officers attempted to assassinate dictator Adolf Hitler in 1944, will be thrown open to the public as a museum. The Wolf's Lair, located in the Masurian woods in northeastern Poland, has been open to the public since the end of World War II, but mainly as a place to take pottery lessons and play paintball. The place has been under lease to a private company, Wolf's Nest, since the collapse of Poland's communist regime. The company turned bunkers into a restaurant and a hotel, cleared some tourist trails of debris, and made the bunker into an indoor shooting range. Over time, according to Jan Oldakowski, 40, a director of the popular Warsaw Uprising Museum, the Wolf's Lair became a "grotesque Disneyland."

Following a sitting of the Intergovernmental Lithuanian-Polish Commission on Economic Cooperation, Lithuanian and



Past Chicago Society Presidents are pictured holding Certificates of Appeciation at the 100th Anniversary Celebration at White Eagle Banquets. [Photo by Teresa Buckner]

Polish Ministries of Economy signed a protocol that aims at strengthening bilateral cooperation in transport, energy, trade, investment, etc. The meeting focused on cooperation in the sectors of energy and transport. The representatives of Lithuania and Poland discussed the construction of gas terminals, shale gas potential, changes in the electricity sector and the progress of Rail Baltica and Via Baltica. In the first half of 2012, Poland among all Lithuania's trade partners (184 in total) ranked 4th in terms of trade turnover (\$1.2 billion) 7th in terms of exports and 3rd in terms of imports.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych and his Polish counterpart, Bronislaw Komorowski, have unveiled a monument commemorating the victims of totalitarianism on the premises of the Bykivnia Graves National Historic-Memorial Reserve, in the Kyiv [Kiev] region. The two presidents laid flowers at the monument, the memorial sign at the Polish graves and the common grave, an Interfax-Ukraine

correspondent reported on September 21, 2012. Memories of those terrible times unite the Polish and Ukrainian people, the Ukrainian president said. Komorowski, for his part, said that Warsaw had long been looking forward to this moment. The Stalin-led regime sought to destroy both people and their memory, the Polish president said.

For the second consecutive year, Northern Essex Community College in Massachusetts had visitors from abroad attending the school for the month of September. The college hosted 14 students from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. "We thought it would be a good idea to come to the States, and immerse ourselves in the culture while learning the language," said Hanna Pluta, a law and European studies major. The students took an English class, as well as classes on American culture, geography, history and biology. They took classes in the morning and then had the rest of the day to themselves to explore the area.



Stanley W. Sawa

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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

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

2 Richard Ciesla John Cieslik Victor Kay

Christopher Kurczaba

5 Robert Dutka6 Edward Kuk Richard Kula7 Richard Jadczak

8 John Pikarski, Jr.

10 William Folak Theodore Sanders

15 Stanley Sawa

20 Wojtek Skonieczny

22 Dariusz Kozlowski

26 Mark Orwat

30 Kazimer Swierz

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother member, who is celebrating the anniversary of his induction In October.

Wojciech Putz 2007 5 Years

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

At its last meeting, the Board of the Chicago Society approved to extend the deadline for submission of applications for the Chicago Society Scholarships to December 3, 2012. Applications should be sent to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Brother **Ken Gill**. The application was published in the July issue of The Forum, and is also available at our website http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/documents/ScholarshipApplication2012.pdf.

POLISH TRIVIA

This third of a series of events took place October 24, 1795, which had a debilitating effect on Poland for all of the 19th Century and the beginning of the 20th. What was this event?

Answer to September's question: Chicago Public Schools named after Poles: Curie, Chopin, Kozminski, Paderewski, Pulaski (there was a Kosciuszko, but don't get me started.)

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Chicago Society Nominating Committee, chaired by Brother **Walter Piecewicz**, presented the following slate of officers and directors for 2013:

President Brother Kenneth Gill **Executive Vice President Brother Robert Groszek** Brother John Cieslik Civic Vice President **Recording Secretary** Brother Marian Skawski Brother Richard Jadczak Financial Secretary Treasurer Brother Donald Gutowski Advocate Brother Ted Makarewicz Senior Director Brother Frank Czaja

Social Activities Director
Clubhouse Director
Director at Large

Director at Large Brother Charles Komosa

Director at Large Brother John Wojciechowski

Director at Large Brother Ted Wiecek

Any additional member interested in running for an office must submit his petition to the chair of the Nominating Committee before the close of the October General Meeting. The election of Officers and Directors will be held at the November General Meeting on Nov. 21.

WHAT THE CHICAGO SOCIETY MEANS TO ME

Ed. Note: The article below was submitted by Brother Walter Piecewicz in response to our request to members to submit their memories of The Society, Unfortunately, space constraints did not allow for this article to be published in our Centennial Program Book. It is published below for the benefit of our members.

As a member for nearly 30 years, and honored to be its President in 2003-04, I have many fond memories of the club and its activities over those years. I recall a pre-Constitution Day brunch where I was chatting with then Congressional candidate Rahm Emmanuel and talking about some of the concerns in the Chicago Polonian community, sitting at a regular meeting with then Lieutenant Governor candidate Bob Kustra, who of course is now President of the football powerhouse Boise State, and having the chance at another function to talk to the then elderly Ben Adamowski, who nearly beat the first Richard Daley for mayor (more than a few would say he really did) at a time when the Polish community was particularly strong in Chicago.

But times change and so has the Society. Decades ago I have to think that joining the Society was practically a necessity because of ethnic discrimination and the need to unify to strengthen our voice at the political and professional table. While these concerns haven't disappeared, I like to think the Society has played a role in integrating Polish-Americans into the American melting pot, joining the steam of other European ethnic groups into the suburbs, the chambers of commerce, and jobs and institutions once out of reach.

The Society continues to remain relevant, it seems to me, and is why I am a member, for cultural reasons. Pride of being Polish is important, and sharing that belief with others allows the Society to maintain the traditions, help fund worthy endeavors through our Foundation, and share common experiences like Catholic school, *Wigilia*, and the like. Although for different reasons, there should be a place for the Chicago Society over the next decades, for future generations.

Brother Walter Piecewicz

According to a recent report prepared by Abacorp on the furniture industry, Poland is a world leader in the furniture market. Each year, Polish factories grind out about 31 million couches, sofas and chairs, with only China producing more. In terms of sales, The Polish furniture sector generated sales of \$3.7 billion in 2011,.

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MAP TO THE OCTOBER MEETING AT THE ELKS CLUB, DES PLAINES





HUBERT J. CIOROMSKI
President

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Oct. 19...PAC Illinois Division Heritage Award Banquet, P rzybylo's

Oct. 20...1st Annual PNA Chess Tournament, Holiday Inn Skokie

Oct. 22—28 ... "Art for Heart", Polish Museum of America

Oct. 26...Council of Educators Polish Heritage Celebration, Northeastern Illinois University

Nov. 1...Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner and Candidates' Forum, Eagles Club

Nov. 8... "Night at the Races", Maywood Park Racetrack

Nov. 10...Polish American Ass'n. 90th Anniversary Annual Gala, The Drake Hotel

WINTER DRESS CODE IS NOW IN EFFECT

Starting with the October meeting and

through April, the Winter Dress Code is in effect for all general meetings of the Society. Gentlemen are requested to dress in a business fashion. A suit or sport coat is required; a tie, though recommended, is not required. However, jeans, shorts and gym shoes are NOT permitted.



LIKE A SCOUT, BE PREPARED:

CORNED BEEF - NOV. 1 RACE NIGHT - NOV. 8

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