



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Now in Our Second Century of Service

VOLUME 75

October 2023

NUMBER 10

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18

General Meeting

The Great Escape
9540 W. Irving Park Rd.
Schiller Park, IL

Call to Order: 7 p.m.

Reservations:
Andy Haszlakiewicz
andyh9946@gmail.com
or call: 847-341-1068

Reservation deadline:

Monday, Oct. 16

* * *

November Meeting
will be held at
Sawa's Old Warsaw

Dear Chicago Society Members and Friends:

Normally, this is the space where our Chicago Society President (currently Chris Grzadziel) informs us of upcoming events and other important news related to the society. But since Chris has been out of town recently, he has given the green light to me, as the editor of The Forum, to take his place this month. This is the first anniversary of my assuming the editor's post, and at our most recent officers' board meeting, I stated my willingness to continue serving in the upcoming year.

As many of you know, much of the past year has been difficult for me personally, because for the second time in two years, I came down with a case of atrial fibrillation in my heart, and related symptoms of heart failure (some shortness of breath, inability to walk long distances, excess fluid accumulation, and general fatigue). The good news is that after receiving a "cardio-version" procedure in June, and a change in medications after that, I now appear to be back to "normal," and those earlier problems have been resolved. I hope this will give me the time and energy not only to continue producing The Forum each month, but also to improve it.

One thing I hope to do starting with the November and December Forums is figure out how to import pictures into it. I am still learning different things about how to produce The Forum on the computer screen using PDF Expert, and if anyone has any experience with that sort of thing, I am willing to take lessons! Also I hope that as I become more skilled in using different features on the computer to set up The Forum, it will have an even more professional appearance in future editions.

Remember too that if there is anything going on that you think I and the rest of the membership should know about, so that we can help publicize it, you can always contact me at my email address: terryprzyby@yahoo.com. Recently we have been sending out The Forum in the middle of the month, just before our monthly meetings; I am hoping to be able to move that up by a few days in the coming months. So the earlier you can get your information to me, the better!

(Continued on page 2)



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

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Terry Przybylski

October Forum Highlights

- ◆ Polish Film Festival in America Coming in November
- ◆ Sawa Family Giving Veterans 50% Off at Restaurant
- ◆ Will the Results of Poland’s Election Be Determined By “Election Tourism?”

Remember the Chicago Society’s address:

**Chicago Society PNA, Lodge #1450
333 Busse Highway, #973
Park Ridge, IL 60068-3285**

Editor’s Report

(Continued from page 1)

If you look over to the left-hand column on this page, you’ll notice we finally have a new secretary, Jackson Gondela-Haack. Congratulations, Jackson!

For upcoming events: remember our November meeting will be at Sawa’s Old Warsaw Restaurant. Also, our Deserving Children’s Christmas Party is on Saturday, Dec. 9; and our Evening of Elegance is on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024.

Terry Przybylski

Editor, FORUM

Our Executive Committee for 2024 Has Been Nominated!

The Nominating Committee of the Chicago Society, PNA has nominated the following members to serve as the Executive Committee for 2024. All nominees have accepted an office and signed their approval. The nominees are: President—Christopher Grzadziel. 1st Vice President—Zenon Kurdziel. 2nd Vice President—Andrew Haszlakiewicz. Secretary—Jackson Gondela-Haack. Financial Secretary—Jan Plachta. Treasurer—Raymond Golenia. Senior Director—Adam Konopka. Director of Social

Activities—Marta Almodovar (interim, until February). Editor, FORUM—Terry Przybylski. If any other member wishes to place his or her name for consideration for any of the positions, they may provide the Nominating Committee written acceptance with the signatures of 10 members in good standing at the October General Meeting. Nominations will close with the adjournment of the meeting—or if a member makes a motion to close them. Election will take place at the November General Meeting.

PAC's 53rd Annual Heritage Banquet Set for Oct. 22

There's still time to reserve a spot at the Polish American Congress Illinois Division's 53rd Annual Heritage Banquet on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 4 p.m. at Allegra Banquets in Schiller Park. Tickets are \$125 each and can be ordered online at: www.pacillinois.org. Those who are scheduled to be honored at the banquet are:

Heritage Award—Copernicus Foundation.

Arts Award—Collegium Cantorum Polonia Choir, which includes adults, youths and children.

Business Award—Piotr Wojtowicz, owner of Darpet, Inc.

Cultural Award—Krzystof Kamyszew, founder, Polish Film Festival of Chicago.

Philanthropic Award—Bogdan Bosak, owner, Chicago Metal Supply & Fabrication.

President's Award—Alicja Otap, editor in chief, Dziennik Zwiazkowy (Polish Daily News); and Paul Kawa, Human Resources Director, Cook County Treasurer's Office.

Polish Film Festival Coming to Chicago, Nov. 4-19

Tickets are now available for the 35th annual Polish Film Festival in America, to be held in Chicago from Nov. 4-19. Fifty feature, animated and documentary films will be shown at three different locations: AMC New City 14, 1500 N. Clybourn Ave., and Gallery Theatre (Society for the Arts), 1112 N. Milwaukee Ave., both in Chicago; and AMC Village Crossing 18, 7000 N. Carpenter Ave., Skokie. The VIP Opening Night Gala Reception will be Saturday, Nov. 4 at 5:30 at

Society for the Arts, followed by the Gala Screening at 8 p.m. at New City 14. The festival will close Sunday, Nov. 19 at New City 14 with an awards ceremony at 3 p.m., followed at 5:30 p.m. by the award-winning film "Green Border" (Zielona Granica), about migrants from the Middle East and Africa trying to reach Europe from the Poland-Belarus border. For ticket information and prices, visit www.pffamerica.org, or call 773-486-9612.



In Memoriam...

Frank Gondela, a 58-Year Member of the Chicago Society

Francis M. “Frank” Gondela, one of the Chicago Society’s longest-tenured members, passed away on Saturday, September 16 at the age of 96. A resident of Norridge, he had been a member of the Society for 58 years. Born on January 13, 1927, the son of Frank and Irene Gondela, he was the owner and president of Service Stamp Works in Chicago for over 50 years. He graduated from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, where he ran hurdles in the Drake Relays. A World War II veteran, Frank served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, and was stationed in the Philippines. In retirement, he volunteered for many years at the Hines VA Hospital. He was also a longtime barbershop quartet singer, and a member of SPEBSQSA, an organization for barbershop singers.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Beverly (nee Morgan); a son, Craig M. (Cynthia) Gondela; two daughters, Barbara L. and Denise M. (Jeffrey) Diessel-Weck; six grandchildren—Jackson Gondela-Haack, Andrew and Grace Gondela, Liam and Bergan Weck, and Kristoffel Diessel. He was also the favorite uncle of Jeffrey, Brandon and Brooke. He was preceded in death by a brother-in-law, Richard (Joan) Morgan.

Visitation was held Friday, Oct. 13 at St. Eugene/Queen of Peace Church, 7958 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, followed by a funeral Mass and interment at St. Adalbert Cemetery, Niles, with military honors—a flag ceremony, bugler and 21-gun salute. A “Celebration of Life” memorial gathering was then held at Lone Tree Manor, Niles. In lieu of flowers, donations to Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, 1140 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607, are appreciated.

Lucille Gutowski, Wife of Longtime Chicago Society Member

Lucille D. (nee Remus) Gutowski, 90, of Norridge, for 66 years the wife of longtime Chicago Society member Donald Gutowski, passed away on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. Born on May 7, 1933, she was a graduate of St. Stanislaus Elementary School, Notre Dame High School and DePaul University, where she was president of the Alpha Omega sorority. She helped her husband build the family business, Consolidated Tool Manufacturers, which they owned for over 25 years. She was also an active volunteer in the community, including at Divine Savior Parish and at her four daughters’ schools; and was a founding member of the Norridge Theatre Guild. She also served as president of the Legion of Young Polish Women, worked with the Copernicus Foundation, and was a supporter of the Polish Museum of America.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by daughters Deann (James) Schlobohm, Laura (Bob) Davis, Ruth (Scott) Mueller and Mary (Stan) Hazzard; 10 grandchildren—Victoria (Matt) Smith; Peter (Alejandra) Davis; Stephanie and Sonja Schlobohm; Anna and Ella Mueller; and Alex, Jocelyn, Matt and Vanessa Hazzard; a great-granddaughter, Lily Smith; and her best friend since childhood, Ursula Kucharski.

Private services were arranged by Skaja Terrace Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her memory to Central Baptist Village (at www.CBVillage.org), which provided care to her in her final years.

Get Ready for the ‘Evening of Elegance’—Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024

Dr. Thaddeus Zamirowski: Was PNA's Medical Director

Dr. Thaddeus A. “Ted” Zamirowski Jr., a Chicago-area family physician for nearly four decades, who also served as the longtime medical director for the Polish National Alliance, passed away on Thursday, September 22, 2023 at Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge. “Dr. Zam,” as he was widely known, spent his medical career at numerous locations throughout the Chicago area, including Resurrection Medical Center in Chicago, and Holy Family Hospital and the former Oakton-Maple medical office in Des Plaines.

Born in Aurora, Ill. in 1952, and raised in the Portage Park neighborhood on Chicago's Northwest Side, Dr. Zamirowski graduated from Loyola Academy High School in Wilmette and Loyola University in Chicago, and earned his M.D. degree from Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine. He met his wife of 44 years, Janet (nee Grafenauer) during his residency at St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital in Chicago, where she was a nurse. They lived in Park Ridge for many years, and after his retirement in 2016, he liked to say that he “transitioned” into being a handyman, gourmet cook, babysitter and wedding planner for his family. He was also known for his storytelling, sense of humor, and love of hosting family and friends at their second home in Green Lake, Wisconsin.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a son, Andrew; a daughter, Alexandra (Kyle) Norman; two grandchildren, Finnegan and Violet Norman; and a host of close family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Thaddeus Zamirowski Sr. and Julia (nee Ralcewich); and a son, Anthony. A private “Celebration of Life” event will be held in the coming weeks. In lieu of flowers, donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital are appreciated. Trees are also being planted in his memory.

Chicago's Polish-Born Bishop Wypych Resigns Due to Illness

The Vatican announced on September 19 that it had accepted the resignation of Bishop Andrew Wypych, who has been an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago since 2011. The Polish-born Wypych, who is 68, tendered his resignation “for health reasons,” according to the archdiocese. Another auxiliary bishop, Joseph Perry, also resigned because he has reached the age of 75—when bishops are required to submit their resignations.

Bishop Wypych was Episcopal Vicar for Vicariate V of the archdiocese, which includes parts of Chicago's Southwest Side and nearby suburbs. He is also the only Polish-speaking bishop in the archdiocese. Born in Kazimierza Wielka, Poland, in 1954, he was ordained a deacon in May 1978 in Krakow by then-Cardinal Karol Wojtyla (who became Pope John Paul II five months later), and then a priest in 1979. Wypych came to Chicago in 1983, serving at St. Giles in Oak Park; and St. Ladislaus, St. Pancratius, Five Holy Martyrs, and St. Francis Borgia parishes, all in Chicago, before being named a bishop by Pope Benedict XVI. Cardinal Francis George consecrated him on August 10, 2011.

Father Marek Smolka, another Polish native, has been appointed as the interim vicar of Vicariate V by Cardinal Blase Cupich, replacing Wypych in that post. Smolka is currently pastor of St. Francis Borgia Parish, and is the Dean of Deanery IV-D and coordinator of the Polish Ministry Council in the archdiocese.

Remember—Deserving Kids' Christmas Party Is Saturday, Dec. 9

Sawa Family Honors, Celebrates, Shares on Veterans Day

With deepest gratitude to each and every person who has served to defend liberty and justice, the Sawa family, of Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant in Brookfield, is offering each veteran 50% off his or her reserved meal at the restaurant on Veterans Day—Saturday, November 11. They believe that this Veterans Day is a real remembrance of all veterans. They also believe that this day should display a true memorial of their beloved father, Walter Sawa.

Walter desired a good life for all people, and so he willingly defended Poland as a member of the Polish Army against the advancing Nazi occupation of World War II. Walter was captured in battle, but he escaped and fled to England. However, once again he did not seek safety for himself, but bravely sought freedom for all by joining the British Army. Subsequently, for his service for two nations, he received Medals of Honor from both Poland and Great Britain.

In 1948, Walter brought his family to the United States for its offering of a good and joyous life. However, he did not want this only for his own family. So, as most in Polonia know, he established the haven now known as "Old Warsaw" exactly 50 years ago, as part of the Chicago-area service industry. Most in Polonia do not know, however, that this 50-year-old establishment stands as a monument to Walter Sawa's noble and generous integrity.

The family of Walter Sawa remembers and celebrates his virtuous life and upright acts daily. They know his sacrifices for the good of all. Consequently, they truly appreciate the sacrifice of each and every veteran who has left a safe and secure home to ensure the safety and freedom of others. This is why they wish to publicly honor veterans in the home that Walter built, at 9200 W. Cermak Road in Broadview.

Their only request is that those who wish to join in this memorial by having a meal at Sawa's on Veterans Day make advance reservations, by calling (708) 343-9040, and that those who wish to enjoy the 50% off benefit bring proof of their service with them that day.

—Submitted by: *Darlene Czaja*

Lira Singers Presenting JP II Concert on Oct. 21

The Lira Singers will be giving a special concert in honor of the late Pope John Paul II on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Daniel the Prophet Church, 5300 S. Natoma Ave., on Chicago's Southwest Side, to celebrate the 45th anniversary of his election to the papacy. Titled "Nie Lekajcie Sie" (Do Not Be Afraid), it will feature selections of Polish sacred music, and musical accompaniment to the reading of famous sermons and writings of John Paul II. Tickets are \$30 for adults: admission is free for clergy, children and college students with school ID's. Tickets can be purchased online at: www.lira@liraensemble.org.

Free Clinic in Chicago Seeks Polish Interpreters

CommunityHealth, a free clinic on the near West Side of Chicago (the Ukrainian Village/West Town area) is seeking volunteer Polish interpreters to help meet their patients' needs. It is the largest volunteer-based free clinic in the U.S., serving over 3,000 patients with free medical and dental care, mental health services, medication, lab services and health education programs. Volunteers must be fluent in Polish and English. Currently, over 1,000 active volunteers donate their time to the clinic. To volunteer, or for more information, contact Katie O'Connor at (773) 395-9900, or: www.communityhealth.org.

*** Current Events ***

Will the Results in Poland's Election Be Determined By "Election Tourism?"

Over 1.1 million Poles registered to vote in Poland's October 15 parliamentary elections outside their usual place of residence. That is four times more than at the last such elections in 2019, and it comes amid reports that so-called "election tourists" were choosing to cast their vote where they think it will carry the most weight.

The figure, reported by the daily "Dziennik Gazeta Prawna," based on data from the digital affairs ministry, is accurate up to October 11; however, it may have risen further by the end-of-day deadline on Thursday, October 12 to register to vote at a different polling station.

In addition to the 1.1 million who had registered to vote away from their usual place of residence, a further 294,000 had applied for a certificate allowing them to vote at any polling station. That figure is almost double the number in 2019. At least part of this increase has been attributed to "election tourism," where voters from large cities travel to smaller towns, hoping to increase the weight of their vote in close-run elections. That is because, experts note, more voters are needed to elect a single member of Parliament in large cities like Warsaw or Krakow than in smaller towns.

In addition, the currently ruling national-conservative Law and Justice party (PiS) has more support in the smaller towns. In 2019, it won between 48 and 58 percent of the vote in towns of up to 20,000 inhabitants, while in the large cities it won just 30 percent.

In the vote for the Sejm, the more powerful lower house of Parliament, Poland is divided into 41 districts. Each one elects between 7 and 20 MP's, depending on population. Since 2011, disparities between districts have widened with the migration of more people from rural to urban areas.

Based on its population, Warsaw should have 11 more MP's than it currently has, according to "Business Insider Polska" journalist Rafal Hirsch. The weight of votes in Warsaw is further reduced because all overseas votes are counted toward the city's total. This year, a record 608,000 people registered to vote abroad,

According to political scientist Jaroslaw Flis, the large number of people registered to vote outside their place of residence suggests that nationwide, the votes of such "tourists" could determine up to seven seats in the 460-seat Sejm. That could prove crucial, given that polls suggested a very close race, with uncertainty as to whether either Law and Justice or the mainstream opposition can win a majority.

—Notes from Poland
Reporting: Alicja Ptak

Chicago Blackhawks Host Polish Heritage Night on Nov. 4

The Chicago Blackhawks are kicking off a series of special promotions for this season with "Polish Heritage Night" on Saturday, Nov. 4 at the United Center. The game against the Florida Panthers starts at 7 p.m. All persons in

attendance will receive a special Blackhawks cap with the team logo and a Polish flag logo. It is the first of several ethnic heritage and college alumni nights planned by the team this season. To pre-order tickets online, go to: [nhl.com/tickets](https://www.nhl.com/tickets).



www.taxpol.net



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