



# The Forum

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

VOLUME 70

DECEMBER 2017

NUMBER 12

## COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 20, 2017  
December General Meeting &  
Christmas Party  
White Eagle Banquets

Monday, January 2, 2018  
CS Board of Directors Meeting  
PNA Home Office

Monday, January 22, 2018  
CS Foundation Quarterly Board  
Meeting  
Colletti's Restaurant 6:00p.m.

Saturday, January 27, 2018  
CS Deserving Children's Christmas  
Party  
PNA Cafeteria

## SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, January 27, 2018  
Inaugural Ball

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

## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate **Brother Ronald J Olech C.P.A.**, who is celebrating the **45th Anniversary** of his induction into the Chicago Society.

Thank you for your loyal membership & **STO LAT!**

## Ho, Ho, Ho! MERRY CHRISTMAS DINNER!

The Chicago Society Board of Directors cordially invites all members and members' widows to our annual Christmas Dinner and Meeting, which will be held on **Wednesday, December 20**, starting at 6:00 p.m. at White Eagle Banquets, located in Niles. Guests will enjoy a plated dinner consisting of Arugula & Grilled Watermelon salad, Chicken Breast Pignola & Stuffed Scampi, Rice Pilaf, Grilled Asparagus with Lemon, Espresso Cake with Tiramisu Glaze, and coffee/tea/ milk. There is a **\$10.00** charge per member and a **\$35.00** for all guests for the dinner. A cash bar will be available for guests. Prompt reservations for the dinner are a must! Please make your reservations no later than Sunday, December 18, by contacting Brother **Chuck Cwiakala**: e-mail (preferred) at [meeting@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:meeting@chicagosocietypna.org) or call 847-635-0883 for reservations.

The annual Christmas Party raffle will take place following our dinner. Our tradition is that the members, guests, and our generous friends donate prizes for the raffle. Any item of merit will be appreciated and will be acknowledged in The Forum.

Dear Brothers,

November was a busy month. On behalf of the Chicago Society I appeared before the Polish American Congress and discussed the history of our organization and the benefits of membership. I

also pulled off another hunting outing for our members and guests. Check out the pictures of the event on our website. The Polish Film Festival also garnered a lot of attention. Hopefully you had a chance to take in a film and support Polish arts in Chicago. Of note was also a controversial issue coming before the membership at the November general meeting. The matter of allowing women to join Chicago Society was voted down. The vote was 29 in favor and 18 opposed. Our Constitution requires a 2/3rds majority to amend the constitution and the resolution failed by 5 votes. As I stated to the members in attendance after the vote, we are losing members faster than they are being replaced. Four members were recently removed from our membership role due to dues nonpayment. We need to replace members we are losing because if this trend continues (and it's been going on for years) we are soon going to find ourselves in a financial condition that will not support the current level of benefits to members. I entreated members at that meeting to each bring one new member. If every member accomplished this goal in 2018, we would see revitalization significant enough to keep all of our programs and past practices in place for years to come. For those at that meeting, I'm asking you again to please each bring

PRESIDENT'S  
MESSAGE





## CHICAGO SOCIETY Forum

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications  
Charles Komosa

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

Visit Our Website At  
[www.chicagosocietypna.org](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org)

CHICAGO SOCIETY P.N.A.  
2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:**

Steven Rakowski

**Executive Vice President:**

Peter Dykas

**Civic Vice President:**

Charles Komosa

**Recording Secretary:**

Richard Ciesla

**Treasurer:**

Robert Nowaczyk

**Financial Secretary:**

Richard Wiermanski

**Advocate:**

Adam Konopka

**Senior Director:**

Thaddeus Makarewicz

**Director of Social Activities:**

Romuald E. Matuszczak

**Director of Club House Admin.:**

Charles Cwiakala

**Director of Personnel:**

Chris Grzadziel

**Director of Public Relations:**

Ron Topczewski

**Director of Publications:**

Charles Komosa

**Director of Finance:**

vacancy

**Director of Special Projects:**

Mark Orwat

in a new member in 2018. For those of you, who were not at the meeting, please reach out to all suitable contacts. WE NEED NEW MEMBERS Good news for our South-side brothers. Our February general membership meeting will be at Sawa's in Broadview. Please look for an announcement in the January Forum for the date and time. I am hoping all members will join us at Sawa's to express appreciation for our South-side members and to support a long-time member of our organization. Finally, on December 20th we will be having our Christmas Party and final meeting for this year. Please all come and share some Christmas cheer. For those of you who cannot attend I extend to you on my behalf and that of the entire executive board of Chicago Society best wishes for a peaceful and meaningful Christmas.

Fraternally yours,  
**Brother Steven Rakowski**



### FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

I wish you and your family a phenomenal Christmas, Hanukkah, or preferred religious celebration with much health, love, and spiritual wealth. Our transitional board of directors meeting will be in January and I wish the newly elected board much success and cooperation in helping build up the membership of the Chicago Society in 2018 and the

future! Please consider attending the Chicago Society Inaugural Ball on Saturday, January 27, 2018, at the swanky Victoria in the Park Banquet Facility in Mt. Prospect, Illinois as we install our newly elected officers, and honor our "Person of the Year" - Brother **Mr. Thaddeus J. Makarewicz, Esq.** This is always a fun event to network, relax, dance, party, and get dressed up!

Fraternally,  
**Brother Charles Komosa,**

### NOVEMBER ELECTIONS & THANKSGIVING GENERAL DINNER MEETING

Brother **Stanley M. Jendzejec** and the 2018 CS Nominating Committee reported that the following officers were elected at the November General Meeting. For the 2018 Chicago Society Board of Directors. Brother President **Steve Rakowski** will nominate a Publications Director at the January 2018 Board meeting with the approval of the Board of Directors. President **Steve Rakowski**, 1st Vice-President **Peter A. Dykas**, 2nd Vice-President **Mario Mikoda**, Financial Secretary **Richard Wiermanski**, Treasurer **Robert Nowaczyk**, Advocate **Adam Konopka**, Social Activities Director **Romuald Matuszczak**, Director of Outreach **Ronald Topczewski**, Director of Personnel **Christopher Grzadziel**, and Director of Publications and Recording Secretary are vacant.

### 2018 CHICAGO SOCIETY INAUGURAL BALL

On Saturday, January 27, 2018, the Chicago Society, P.N.A. will host its 2018 Annual Inaugural Ball and Installation of Officers at the elegant Victoria in the Park Banquet Facility in Mt. Prospect, Illinois. This year we are honoring Brother **Mr. Thaddeus J. Makarewicz, Esq.**, a dedicated Polish American an activist belonging to and serving as an officer in organizations like the Chicago Society, Advocates Society, Polish Arts Club, Polish Museum of

## CHICAGO SOCIETY P.N.A. PROPOSED FOR CHICAGO SOCIETY 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 this prospective member, 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: **Chester S. Slonina** – wife  
(**Monique**)

Address: 584 Gilbert Drive  
Wood Dale, IL 60174

Phone: 630-222-5858

Occupation: Registered Nurse,  
Edward Hines V.A. Hospital

Birth date: August 08, 1953

Birthplace: Chicago, Illinois

Education: Master's Degree in  
Hospital Administration and Nursing

Sponsors: Brothers **Walter M.  
Pieciewicz & Frank Gondela**

America, Polish American Association, Bishop Abramowicz Seminary and former Chairman, Chicago Sister Cities Warsaw Committee. The 2018 Inaugural Ball Chairman is Brother **Romuald Matuszczak** and ensures that the evening will meet the high standards of the Chicago Society with great food, good drinks and quality entertainment. The price per guest is **\$130.00** and invitations will be mailed out soon. The reception starts at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails, gourmet hors d'oeuvres and a Champagne and strawberry table. The dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. starting with a tossed salad in a cucumber wreath, a pre-selected entrée choice of **Prime Filet Mignon, Salmon, Chicken de jonghe, or Vegetarian en croute**, all accompanied with a table side red and white wine service, mushroom shaped roasted potatoes, grilled asparagus and a dark chocolate mousse with a fresh strawberry garnish for dessert. Music will be provided by **The Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra**. Entertainment will be provided by the Polonia Dance Ensemble. Please call Brother **Ro Matuszczak** at **847-635-0883** for reservations. To make reservations easily and conveniently via PayPal using your credit card or checking account simply go to <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/inaugural-ball>

### 2018 CHICAGO SOCIETY INAUGURAL BALL AD BOOK

Please show your support for our well deserving honoree **Brother Thaddeus J. Makarewicz, Esq.**, by attending the Ball and placing an ad in our program book. The Inaugural Ball is always an elegant affair especially being held this year at Victoria in the Park Banquet Facility. The rate are full page **\$100.00**, half page (1/2) **\$60.00**, and quarter page (1/4) **\$35.00**. Please call President Steve Rakowski or Charles

Komosa for special pricing for inside front cover, back inside cover, and back cover. Please make all checks payable to the: Chicago Society, PNA, or fill out Ad contracts at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/ball-ad-contract> - Please call Brother **Steve Rakowski** at (847) 204-4106 or email him ads to [steve@kandrfamilylaw.com](mailto:steve@kandrfamilylaw.com) or Brother **Charles Komosa** at 773/286-7123 or email him at [charles.komosa@pna-znp.org](mailto:charles.komosa@pna-znp.org) with ads for the program book or questions.



Brother **Frank "Uncle Frank" Gondela** was presented a certificate from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs in recognition for his services given to our country as a member of the United States Armed Forces. Brother **Frank** served in the US Army Air Corps from 1944 until 1946 serving in the South Pacific during World War II. The certificate was presented to Brother Frank personally by Illinois State Governor Bruce Rauner at a ceremony held on Veteran's Day last month at Edward Hines V.A Hospital.

**Pączki & Handcuffs! Congratulations & Best Wishes** to Brother **William "Bill" Wojcik**, co-owner of his family owned Laramie Bakery and generous sponsor of many of the Chicago Society events like the Sledz, Annual Golf Outing, & Picnic to name a few, for being officially sworn in as a **Chicago Police Officer** with fellow graduates from his academy on Tuesday, November 15, 2017. Brother **Bill** took the Oath of Office from the Honorable **Rahm Emanuel**, Mayor of the City of Chicago at a crowded Navy Pier!

Brother **Chuck Cwiakala** was spotted frolicking in Paris, France "gay heureux paris!"

## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



- 03 Kenneth J Kogut
- 09 Frank W Czaja
- 14 Charles E Cwiakala
- 16 Benjamin Sipiora
- 17 Greg Sarwa
- 18 Thomas Nowinski
- 21 Ronald J Olech C.P.A.
- 21 Dean J Niedospial
- 22 Jack F Rohner
- 23 Thomas P Laskowski
- 27 Ronald M Wolosewicz
- 30 Robert Pietryka

Get Well Wishes go out to Brother **Frank Spula**, President of the PNA and PAC recuperating from knee (both) replacement surgery he had performed recently.!

**Mr. Richard Owsiany**, President of the Polish Museum of America sent me a thank you note acknowledging the generous grant by the Board of the **Chicago Society Foundation** to the Museum for the PMA for the Kosciuszko Exhibit which opened on October 15, 2017. Thanks to a substantial donation from the **Chicago Society Foundation**, the PMA was able to make a first class exhibit featuring our Kosciuszko collection. The PMA Archives holds an extensive collection of more than 90 original, handwritten and signed letters by Kosciuszko, President Thomas Jefferson, American Revolution generals and other notables of the time, as well as broadsides, periodicals, and a wide assortment of lithograph portraits of the American and Polish hero – an exhibit featuring these items is scheduled for **October 15, 2017-March 11, 2018**.

### CHICAGO SOCIETY FOUNDATION'S 1ST QUARTER MEETING 2018

The Chicago Society Foundation (CSF) will have its 1st quarter meeting on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 6:00p.m. at Colletti's Restaurant in Chicago. This meeting also serves as the 2018 election meeting. The Board is made up off all Chicago Society past presidents and current CS president. Currently serving on the CS Board is Brothers Ro Matuszczak, Donald Gutowski, Frank Gondela, Richard Ciesla, Stanley Sawa, Walter Pieciewicz, Charles Komosa, Frank Czaja, Mark Orwat, Thaddeus Makarewicz, & L. Steven Rakowski.

### JAMES AND LILLIAN KULZE SCHOLARSHIP

The Chicago Society Foundation, affiliated with the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, Lodge 1450 of the PNA, announces that it will be funding up to **three \$7500.00 scholarships** annually through its James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship Fund. These scholarship awards are available to Illinois residents of Polish descent with financial need who are pursuing academic studies in college, graduate, or professional school.

Initial applications will be accepted through January 22, 2018. Selections will be made in April 2018 for the subsequent fall academic term. Forms, dates, and other information regarding selection criteria and requirements will be found on the Chicago Society's website, [www.chicagosocietypna.org](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org). Please email Mr. Walter M. Pieciewicz for further information at [wpieciewicz@immaculaw.com](mailto:wpieciewicz@immaculaw.com)

### CS DESERVING CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Chicago Society's Deserving Children's Christmas Party was held on December 9th, 2017 at the PNA building. The event was a huge success due to efforts from our members and friends donating their time and gifts and monetary contributions to help 60 plus children, who came from The Polish American Association and a Polish School, enjoy this beautiful season. A magician, KidzMagic by Andrew, provided entertainment and mesmerized the children with his talent and Santa, our own Brother Chris Grzadziel, managed to park his reindeer on the roof and brought many gifts. Lunch was provided which included Hot dogs and chips, milk and cookies, and soda, provided by the Polish Scouts.

There are many people who I would like to give special THANKS to: Agnes, my wife, and my children, Matthew and Isabella, who helped, Brother **Chris Grzadziel** and his wife, Kasia, who helped in all aspects of this event, Brother **Rich** and Maria **Ciesla**, Brother **Rocky Nowaczyk** and his boys, Tanya Theodosakis and her 2 children, Eva and Max, and to Brothers **Frank Spula** and **Charles Komosa** for the use of the cafeteria (free of charge). Also a big THANKS go out to all members who donated gifts, (too many to mention but you know who you are) and to the following who gave monetary gifts, Brother **Robert Radkowski** and the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union, Brother **Warren Dulski**, Brother **Chris Grzadziel**, Brother **John Wasilewski**, and to Friends of Chicago Society Mario Pucharic of Integra Communications with PNC Bank, our major sponsor. Last, but not least, a big THANK YOU, to my Co-Chair, Brother **Ro Matuszczak** and Chris, who handed me the reigns and entrusted me to continue to help children, not only of Polish roots but of all ethnic roots, to this event he started 53 years ago. Always listen those who have many years of experience and much knowledge. **Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!**

### POLISH DESCENDANTS IN HAITI: THE LOST TRIBE

Haiti, the western part of the former Spanish island of Hispaniola, was one of the largest mixes of African slave colonies in the Caribbean. Of a population of nearly 519,000 in 1791, 87 percent were African slaves and due to harsh living and working conditions, many slaves died, and new slaves were imported which created a nation of mixed racial origin. Aside from the African slave, Haiti has a diverse group of diaspora from many countries around the world including Germany, Italy, China, Lebanon, Pakistan, Syria, and Poland. Those people often times left their country of origin due to political instabilities or wars. Today we want to highlight the **Haitian-Polish** community. **Haitian-Polish** are people of Polish ethnic origin living in Haiti. They are a significantly small population but largely contributed to the success of the Haitian Revolution against the French Army of Napoleon. **Haitian of Polish Descent: How the Polish came to be in Haiti?** The Polish soldiers were led by **Jan Henryk Dąbrowski**, a former high-ranking officer in the army of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. They were also under French rule, due to complicated politics, at the time "The Poles had been told that they were there to liberate people – not restore them to slavery. After a short time of being there, the Polish realized that they had been deceived, and they stopped fighting, became deserters; and in most cases, joined Jean-Jacques Dessalines and his slave army." The Polish people formed communities over the next two centuries. In Cazales, ~45 miles north of Port-au-Prince, Haitians of Polish descent now live in a community often referred to as **blanc polone (White Polish)**. They are Haitians; but due to the fact that the bulk of the Polish Legionnaires settled there, the community has forever been referred to as '**Polish**'; and there is a high proportion of very light-skinned, blue-eyed Haitians in that area. Article by **Jean Paul Laurent** is the Founder & CEO of the Unspoken Smiles Foundation in December 2015.

Mark Your Calendars

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Cut this out and tape it to your refrigerator*

**Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2017**  
Thanksgiving Dinner Meeting  
White Eagle Banquets

**Monday, December 4, 2017**  
CS Board of Directors Meeting  
LaVilla Restaurant & Banquets

**Saturday, December 9, 2017**  
CS Deserving Children's  
Christmas Party  
PNA Cafeteria

**Wednesday, December 20, 2017**  
December General Meeting &  
Christmas Party



**O'HARE**  
5420 N. Harlem  
Chicago, IL 60656

**LINCOLN PARK**  
2502 N. Clark  
Chicago, IL 60614

Office: 773.792.3000  
Cell: 773.485.3000  
hubert@troyrealtyltd.com

### CASEY LASKOWSKI & SONS FUNERAL HOME

Dignified services for all denominations  
beautiful surroundings · four Chapels  
ample parking  
Suburban Locations Available  
Phone 773-777-6300  
4540-50 W. DIVERSEY AVE.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60639

### RONALD J. OLECH

#### Certified Public Accountants

Tax Preparation and Planning for: Individuals  
Accounting Tax and Business Planning for:  
Small Businesses, "Start-Up" Businesses,

Cottage Industry, Computer Counseling  
Ronald J. Olech, CPA  
3939 N. Lawndale Ave., Chicago, IL 60618  
Tel: (773) 267-0560

Fax: (773) 267-2420  
E-mail: rolechcpa@aol.com  
or rolech4042@aol.com



**UNWRAP CHRISTMAS**

WITH THE **ANTHONY KAWALKOWSKI ORCHESTRA**

**JOIN** Anthony Kawalkowski and his Orchestra as they unwrap the joy, the magic, and the wonder of Christmas.

**DECEMBER 9 @ 7:00 PM**  
 5216 West Lawrence Avenue  
 Chicago, IL 60630  
 (773) 777-8898  
 copernicuscenter.org




**THE SKAJA FAMILY**

Family owned and operated  
Serving our community  
for 84 years

Jack Skaja and John Skaja  
Members

**SKAJA TERRACE  
FUNERAL HOME**

7812 North Milwaukee Avenue  
Niles, Illinois 60714  
847-966-7302

**SKAJA BACHMANN  
FUNERAL HOME**

7715 W. Route 14  
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60012  
815-455-2233



**American Home Inspectors, Ltd.**

Stanley W. Sawa, Presi-  
dent  
5324 S. Catherine  
Countryside, IL 60525  
Prepurchase Home Inspections Since 1988  
A.S.H.I. Certified Member #001882  
Ill. Home Inspector Entity License  
451.000175

Local 708/579-0300  
Toll Free 800/339-5300  
Fax 877/360-5404  
Ill. Home Inspector License  
#450.000424

E-Mail: STAN@AHINSPECTORS.COM  
Web Page WWW.AHINSPECTORS.COM

**CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM**

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



FIRST CLASS MAIL