



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 75

January 2023

Number 1

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 18

General Meeting

The Great Escape

9540 W. Irving Park Rd.,

Schiller Park, IL

7 p.m. Call to Order

Reservations:

Andy Haszlakiewicz

andyh9946@gmail.com

Saturday, Jan. 28

Evening of Elegance

Park Ridge CC

636 N. Prospect Ave.

(at Sibley), Park Ridge

6 p.m.—12 midnight

Dear Members:

Welcome to 2023! I hope that all of you, and your families, had a safe and wonderful New Year. I wish you all the best in the new year.

I would first like to thank the outgoing 2022 Board of Directors for all their hard work throughout the past year. There were many successful events that helped the Society continue its mission of helping the youth of Polonia. As we start the new year, I would also like to thank the members of the 2023 Board of Directors to committing to work in our organization and continuing our mission. There are currently two positions that are vacant—Secretary, and Director of Social Activities. These positions are crucial in communicating information to the membership, as well as managing all of our events throughout the year. If you are interested in serving in either of these positions, please reach out to me, or to any board member, to discuss.

We ended 2022 with a very successful Deserving Children's Christmas Party, chaired by Peter Dykas. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this event a success. More information about the event is included in this edition of the FORUM. Also in December, members and guests enjoyed a festive Christmas meeting which included the oplatek, dinner, and a special caroling performance by the 2022 Board of Directors.

We start off the new year with our annual "Evening of Elegance," chaired by Adam Konopka. This event will once again be held at the Park Ridge Country Club on Saturday, Jan. 28. Invitations were mailed in December. This year, we will be honoring the Legion of Young Polish Women for all the work they do for the Polish community. Also this year, we will honor our first Ro Matuszczak Member of the Year. After-dinner dancing music will also be provided by our own member Anthony Kawalkowski. I hope to see you all there for this great event!

Last year marked some significant changes in the Chicago Society. On two occasions, there were votes on amending the Chicago Society Constitution. The makeup of the Board of Directors was modified to be in line with our current membership. The other major amendment was to allow women to be members of the Society. We have already received applications from new potential members, and we will be inducting them soon. This change was discussed and voted on several times over the past few years.

I would encourage former members to consider rejoining our ranks, to work with all of us to make the Society a great organization. The edits to the Constitution are being renewed, and will be updated on our website soon.

We have many great events planned for this year. A complete calendar of these events is included in this edition of the FORUM. Please print this out and add it to your own calendar.

(Continued on page 2)



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

Board of Directors

President

Chris Grzadziel

1st Vice President

Zenon Kurdziel

2nd Vice President

Andy Haszlakiewicz

Secretary

(Position Available)

Financial Secretary

Jan Plachta

Treasurer

Ray Golenia

Senior Director

Adam Konopka

Director, Social Activities

(Position Available)

Editor, FORUM

Terry Przybylski

January Forum Highlights

- ◆ Evening of Elegance in Park Ridge Jan. 28
- ◆ We're Still Looking to Fill Two Board Positions
- ◆ Deadline to Apply for Kulze Scholarships Nears
- ◆ 2023 Calendar of Events Released

Also in This Edition:

—Lech Walesa Protests in Mexico City!

Remember the Chicago Society's new address:

Chicago Society, PNA, Lodge #1450

333 Busse Highway, #973

Park Ridge, IL 60068-3285

President's Report

(Continued from page 1)

The success of all these events requires a lot of work, and any help that you are willing to provide will be greatly appreciated.

I am honored to take the reins of this truly historic organization. I look forward to working with all of you to make this a successful year. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to me at: chris@gradztech.com, or call me at 847-630-2863.

Chris Grzadziel, President

**Remember, the Chicago Society PNA
Is Now on LinkedIn!**

We're Still Seeking Members to Fill Two Vacancies on the Board of Directors

The Chicago Society PNA recently elected its Board of Directors for 2023 (see the new listing on Page 2), but it is still seeking to fill two positions for the coming year—Secretary, and Director of Social Activities. Last year's Director of Social Activities, Zenon Kurdziel, and the former Secretary, Andy Haszlakiewicz, have shifted to being 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President, respectively, leaving their former positions open. "These positions are crucial in communicating information to the membership, as well as managing all of our events throughout the year," noted incoming President Chris Grzadziel.

The Secretary takes the minutes of the Board Meetings and General Meetings each month, and forwards this information to members. The Director of Social Activities is responsible for overseeing the many activities sponsored by the Chicago Society over the course of the year.

Any member who has an interest in either of these positions is asked to reach out to our new president Chris Grzadziel, or to any other board member, as soon as possible.



RSVP by Jan. 20 for Chicago Society's 'Evening of Elegance' at Park Ridge CC

Time is quickly running out to reserve a spot at Chicago Society PNA Lodge #1450's Evening of Elegance, the highlight of the midwinter social calendar! January 20 is the deadline to make your reservations for this widely-anticipated event, which will be held on Saturday evening, January 28, at the Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave. Tickets are \$150 per person, or \$1,500 for a table of ten. This event is "Black Tie Optional," so either tuxedos or business suits are acceptable for the men—and appropriately dressy clothing for the ladies.

The evening will kick off at 6 p.m. with a cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner at 7 p.m. There are three options available for dinner—Petit Filet and Chicken Francaise; Salmon and Chicken Picatta; or Vegetarian.

The official program begins at 8:30 p.m. with the induction of the Chicago Society's officers for 2023. Continental/Ballroom dancing will be featured, with music provided by the Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra—headed by a brother member of the Society who is an accomplished violinist. The Lechici Polish Dancers troupe will also perform at the event; and Chicago Society will also honor the Legion of Young Polish Women for their history of good works for Poland and Chicago's Polonia—which dates back more than 80 years, to the opening days of World War II, when they helped provide relief for Polish victims of the war; and continues today with assistance to those now in Poland who were displaced by the Russian attack on Ukraine that began in February 2022.

Finally, the Chicago Society will also be presenting its first annual Ro Matuszczak Member of the Year Award, in honor of our longtime brother member who belonged to the Society for over 65 years, and who passed away in 2022 at the age 97. The award is designed to honor a member who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in assisting the Society with its activities that are held throughout the year.

Reservations can still be made online at the chicagosocietypna.org website. Also, any questions may be directed to Br. Adam Konopka, the event chairman, at 773-220-1891.

Lira Ensemble Offering Two Tours of Poland This Summer

For anyone interested in visiting Poland this summer, the Lira Ensemble is sponsoring two tours—one in the south of the country, and the other in the north.

A 14-day tour of southern Poland will take place from June 22—July 6, and will include visits to Warsaw, Krakow, Lodz, Czestochowa, Wroclaw, Zakopane and Wadowice (hometown of Pope John Paul II).

The 13-day tour of northern Poland will be offered from July 13–26 and will include Warsaw, Gdansk, the Tri-City area, Poznan, Bialystok, the Bialowieza Forest, Torun, and Malbork Castle. Both the northern and southern tours will also feature a visit to the birthplace of Frederic Chopin, in Zelazowa Wola, west of Warsaw.

For more information on these tours, call 773-508-7040, or email: lira@liraensemble.org.

Chicago Society's 2023 Calendar of Events Released

The Chicago Society PNA Lodge #1450 has released its calendar of events for 2023. Please note that some of the events listed here are still subject to change, and these are marked with an asterisk.

JANUARY

Monday, Jan. 9—Board Meeting
Wednesday, Jan. 18—General Meeting
Saturday, Jan. 28—2023 Evening of Elegance, Park Ridge CC

FEBRUARY

Monday, Feb. 6—Board Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 15—General Meeting
Friday, Feb. 17—Sledz*

MARCH

Monday, March 6—Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 15—General Meeting/Easter Ham Raffle

APRIL

Monday, April 3—Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 19—General Meeting

MAY

Monday, May 1—Board Meeting
Saturday, May 6—Pre-Parade Brunch/Polish Constitution Day Parade
Wednesday, May 17—General Meeting

JUNE

Monday, June 5—Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 21—General Meeting

JULY

Monday, July 3—Board Meeting (tentative date)
Friday, July 7—Golf Outing*
Wednesday, July 19—General Meeting

AUGUST

Monday, Aug. 7—Board Meeting
Wednesday, Aug. 16—General Meeting
Saturday, Aug. 26—End-of-Summer Family Picnic*

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday, Sept. 5—Board Meeting
Wednesday, Sept. 20—General Meeting

OCTOBER

Monday, Oct. 2—Board Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 18—General Meeting

NOVEMBER

Monday, Nov. 6—Board Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 15—General Meeting/Turkey Raffle/Elections

DECEMBER

Monday, Dec. 4—Board Meeting
Saturday, Dec. 9—Deserving Children's Christmas Party*
Wednesday, Dec. 20—General Meeting/Christmas Party

Thanks to All Who Helped Make a Successful Deserving Children's Party This Christmas

Did you know that the Chicago Society's Deserving Children's Christmas Party, which is hosted by the Society every December, has been around for at least 65 years? Our late brother, Ro Matuszczak, served as the chairman for 53 of those years, and I am honored to represent the Society in serving in this role now, and I have done so for the last five years. It is amazing to see how little things can make a child smile, and hold tightly a gift coming from Santa, through contributions that you have made, to make this event happen for all these years.

Speaking of contributions, I would like everyone to know that the following organizations and individuals have donated monetary funds and items this year! Thank you to:

- Frank Spula and the PNA for the hall rental
- Robert Radkowski, and the Polish and Slavic Federal Credit Union, \$350
- Mario Mikoda and the Copernicus Foundation, \$250
- Thomas Sieja and the Polish American Police Association, \$200
- Jack and John Skaja, of Skaja Funeral Homes, \$200
- Chester Slonina, \$200
- Richard Lazarski, \$125
- Ray Golenia, \$100
- Frank and Darlene Czaja, \$100
- Ed Wasilewski, \$100
- Ted Makarewicz, \$100
- Don and Lucille Gutowski, \$50
- The Polish Scouting Association, for providing soda and chips
- Lowell Foods, for donating a gift bag of sweets
- The Dog Stop, for providing a hot dog lunch

Donations helped offset the cost of the afternoon's event: supplies, lunch, a reptile and bird show, and of course, presents from Santa. We had 75 children RSVP, with 68 in attendance—most of them coming from the Polish American Association; we also had some children from Dom Samotnej Matki.

I am VERY thankful to the grandchildren of Chuck Cwiakala—Max and Ewa; to our members, Adam Konopka, Jan Plachta, Andy Haszlakiewicz, Terry Przybylski (and his amazing skill on the accordion!), Zenon Kurdziel, Kasia Grzadziel and "Santa" (a.k.a. Chris); and to my loving wife and children (Agnes, Matthew and Isabella) for making this day run smooth—and for their time to help set up, clean up, and everything in between. Thank you, ladies and gents!

Peter Dykas, chairman

March 1 Is the Deadline to Apply for PNA's Kulze Scholarships

The deadline to apply for the Kulze Scholarships sponsored by the Chicago Society Foundation is fast approaching! Wednesday, March 1 is the last day for initial applications to be accepted. The Foundation, affiliated with the Chicago Society PNA Lodge #1450, is funding four scholarships totaling \$22,500 for the 2023-24 academic year, through the Kulze Scholarship Fund. One of the scholarships is for \$7,500; the other three are for \$5,000 each. After the initial applications are accepted, selections will be made in April for the Fall 2023 Semester.

Former Chicago Society President James Kulze and his wife, Lillian, generously endowed the fund to provide meaningful scholarship support benefitting worthy students of Polish descent every year. Recipients must be U.S. residents who are currently pursuing academic studies, whether in college or in graduate or professional schools. For more information, see the web address: <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/foundation-kulze-scholarship>.

*** Current Events ***

Lech Walesa, Protesting in Mexico City, Says Communism 'Is a Mistake' and Must End

Former Polish President and 'Solidarity' leader Lech Walesa was among those taking part in a recent protest against the Communist government of Cuba outside its embassy in Mexico, after eight people trying to escape Cuba—including a 2-year-old girl—drowned when their makeshift raft was rammed by a Cuban government coast guard vessel in October.

Walesa was in Mexico City in mid-November to attend and advise Mexico's first "Conservative Political Action Conference," attended by people from several Latin American countries who oppose Communist and socialist regimes in their homelands, and who wish to institute economic and political freedoms there.

While protesting in front of the Cuban embassy, Walesa and several others were confronted by a pro-Communist group carrying flagpoles with hammer-and-sickle insignias that tried to attack them while chanting "These streets belong to Fidel!" (a reference to the late Cuban dictator Fidel Castro), and "No gusanos!" (a Spanish word for "maggots," which Castro's supporters use to describe their opponents). Mexican police intervened to prevent any serious injuries.

"I am very impatient that Communism continues to govern in Cuba and the regime is still there," Walesa said. "As you all know, I led a struggle against Communism, and we defeated Soviet Communism—but as you see, Communism still exists in some places. That is why I call on the government of Cuba to end its Communist regime; stop killing the Cuban people. Communism is a mistake."

Walesa said that Communism "has slogans and nothing else, and that is why it can't manage without force, without an army. It doesn't have a good program and doesn't come with good ideas. Beware of slogans, because they always propagate them, but they never keep their promises. They never fulfill them and they're not going to fulfill them. The ideas of Communism seem very good, but I have never seen the promises fulfilled."

The 79-year-old former president, who was a shipyard electrician in Gdansk when he became a leader of 'Solidarity,' and who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983, noted that he himself had lived under a Communist regime for over four decades. "I know it well!" he remarked.

—From *Breitbart.com* and *EWTN.com*

NOTE: The Chicago Society PNA Board of Directors recently decided that the minutes of our monthly general meetings will no longer be published in the FORUM.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! / SZCZESLIWEGO NOWEGO ROKU!



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Park Ridge, IL 60068-3285

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