



# The Forum

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

VOLUME 68

JANUARY 2017

NUMBER 1

## MONTHLY NETWORKING- DINNER MEETING

**WEDNESDAY**  
**JANUARY 18, 2017**  
6:00 p.m.

White Eagle Banquets  
Niles, Illinois

**RESERVATIONS**  
by January 16 to  
[meeting@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:meeting@chicagosocietypna.org)  
847-823-8747

## NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, February 6, 2017  
7:00 p.m.  
PNA Home Office

## COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017—  
Dinner Meeting & Speaker  
White Eagle Banquets  
Cocktails 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner 7:00 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 23, 2017 —  
CS Foundation Quarterly Meeting  
Colletti's Restaurant  
Cocktails 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner & Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017 —  
2017 Inaugural Ball  
Café Le Cave  
Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres 6:30 p.m.  
Gourmet Dinner & Entertainment  
7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2017 -  
Chicago Society Śledź  
LaVilla Banquets

## JANUARY GENERAL MEETING & FEATURED SPEAKER

Brother **Stanley Sawa** & Brother **Ted Makarewicz** have arranged for Mr. Wojtek Sawa to be our featured speaker at the CS January General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, at the White Eagle.

Mr. Wojtek Sawa is a Polish-American visual artist, filmmaker, and journalist. His exhibition "The Wall Speaks" is devoted to Polish children and teenagers of World War II and to all those whose voices are not being heard today and who suffer at being treated as less than fully human. "The Wall Speaks" has been shown at museums, universities, and galleries in the United States and Poland. It enjoyed a three



month run at the Florida Holocaust Museum where it became one of the most popular exhibitions in the museum's history. "The Wall Speaks" consists of a series of installations employing large format photography, specially designed artifacts, and interactive video. Through its participatory design, the exhibition extends a rare bridge connecting experiences of Polish World War II children, with experiences of viewers today whose voices are not being heard, and who suffer at being treated as less than fully human. We are very grateful to Chicago Society Foundation for its support of this exhibition, which serves to present a true picture of the Polish World War II experience.

The January General Meeting not only offers great camaraderie, a featured speaker, but a delicious dinner menu! The menu includes tossed salad, homemade meatloaf, macaroni and cheese, vegetable of the day, bread basket, Chef's choice dessert, and coffee or tea. Please contact Brother **Chuck Cwiakala** at [meeting@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:meeting@chicagosocietypna.org) or call 847-823-8747 for reservations. Please note: Any guests at the meeting must be prospective new members and you must confirm the reservation with Brother Chuck. No exceptions!

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**2017**



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Chicago Society PNA membership

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Dear Brothers,

It is with no slight trepidation that I greet you as the next President of the Chicago Society. The shoes I have to fill are enormous and I trust I speak for many Brother members when I offer a heartfelt *dziękuję* to our outgoing president, Thaddeus Makarewicz.

He was, and remains, a great ambassador who tirelessly worked to advance not only the goals of our fraternity but also the individual interests of its members. Isaac Newton said "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Ted's energy, enthusiasm and charitable disposition set a great standard and I aspire to serve you all as dutifully-with his guidance of course. I would be remiss if I did not offer appreciation for the service of several other outgoing board members. Brothers Robert Groszek, John Cieslik, Mario Mikoda, and Ted Wiecek are stepping down and will be sorely missed. Thank you all for your years of service. We have a wonderful group of officers and directors who were sworn in at the January Board meeting. It is with pleasure that I introduce to you the 2017 Board and Executive officers: President, Steven Rakowski; Executive Vice president, Peter Dykas; Recording Secretary, Richard Ciesla; Treasurer, Robert Nowaczyk; Financial Secretary, Ryszard Jadczyk; Advocate, Adam Konopka; Senior Director, Thaddeus Makarewicz; Director of Social Activities, Romuald Matuszczak; Director of Club House Administration, Chuck Cwiakala; Director of Finance, Richard Wiermanski; Director of Special Projects, Mark Orwat; Director of Personnel; Chris Grzadziel; Director of Public Relations, Ron "Topper" Topczewski; Director of Publications, Charles Komosa. Please make a point of introducing yourselves to these gentlemen. You will be inspired by their dedication and commitment-true servant hearts to the one.

Our Inaugural Ball is almost upon us. It will be at Café la Cave in Des Plaines and is scheduled for February 4th. The festivities begin with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30. If you have not already sent in your reservation, please do. This year's entertainment will be a real treat. Tony Kawalkowski and his orchestra will be performing and this year's honoree will be the Advocates Society of Polish-American attorneys. Join with your Brother members in welcoming the new officers and board members. And, strike up a conversation with one of our Advocates Society guests. I am confident you will be charmed. Our beloved departed member Brother T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert will be posthumously honored by the Copernicus Foundation on January 14th. The ceremony will begin at 5:15 p.m. and will take place in the Copernicus Center Annex hall which will be renamed in his honor. Participation in this event would be a great way of demonstrating your appreciation for Brother Jasinski-Herbert and all of his years of service to the Chicago Society and Polonia. Central goals of Brother Makarewicz during his term as President were to revitalize our organization by reaching out to other groups, encouraging greater member participation, and growing membership. At the risk of tipping my hand as to the subject of my remarks at the Ball I believe many of our challenges can be resolved by a vital and participatory membership. Simply put, we need more members. I invite all of you to help me accomplish my goal of growing our group. All suggestions as to how to do so will be warmly welcomed. For the rest of my ambitions for our fraternity you will have to wait until February 4th.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Inaugural Ball. Until then, I remain...

Fraternally yours, Brother Steve Rakowski





## FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

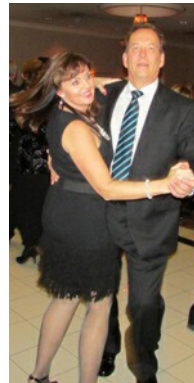
Dear Brothers,

I wish you and your family a phenomenal 2017 with much health, love, and wealth. At the CS January board of directors meeting this month, Brother Steve Rakowski, newly elected president, was considering possible appointments to several board positions. Stay tuned! Please consider attending the Chicago Society Inaugural Ball on Saturday, February 4, 2017, at Café Le Cave as we install our newly elected officers, and honor the Advocates Society. Another fantastic event is the Annual Chicago Society Śledź Dinner on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at the LaVilla Restaurant & Banquets. Brother Mark Orwat, event chairman, promises for a very energetic event with great food, drink and the Śledź pageant!

Fraternally,  
Brother Charles Komosa

### THE 2017 INAUGURAL BALL IS COMING!

The 2017 Annual Inaugural Ball with Installation of Officers of the Chicago Society for 2017 will be held on Saturday, February 4, 2017. The Ball will once again be held at the elegant Café La Cave. Ball Chairman Brother **Ro Matuszczak** ensures that the evening will meet the high standards of the Chicago Society with great food, good drinks and quality entertainment. The reception starts at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails, champagne and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner at 7:30 p.m. will feature Fettuccini Giovanni with red and yellow peppers with zucchini and squash in a tomato mascarpone fondue; classic Caesar Salad a la Cave; pre-selected entrée choice of Filet Mignon with Bordelaise sauce, Orange Roughy St. Germaine, Chicken Piccata or Vegetarian en crouete, all accompanied with whipped potatoes and asparagus with carrots. Dessert will be the scrumptious Café La Cave Chocolate Souffle. Our honorees this year will be The Advocates Society. Music will be provided by The Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra. Entertainment will be provided by the Polonia Dance Ensemble. The cost of the Inaugural is \$130 per person. Black tie is optional. Please call Brother **Ro Matuszczak** at 847-635-0883 for more information. To make reservations easily and conveniently via PayPal using your credit card or checking account simply go to [www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments). If you choose to use PayPal, please remember to indicate your entree choices.



### THE CHICAGO SOCIETY'S ŚLEDŹ MARDI GRAS PARTY

Co chairmen Brothers **Mark Orwat** and **Charles Komosa** cordially invite you to attend the 2017 Annual Chicago Society Śledź on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at LaVilla Restaurant and Banquets, 3632 N Pulaski in Chicago. The festivities will begin with a social hour (cash bar) at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will start with śledź (herring) served with rye bread, *biały* (white) *barszcz* soup, followed by *kiełbasa*, *kapusta*, Polish style chicken de volaille, potatoes, pierogi, green beans almandine, coffee or tea, ice cream, and *pączki*. After dinner, the traditional pageant representing Śledź will be held followed by the crowning of St. Joseph for 2017. The gentleman selected acts as our chaplain at Chicago Society meetings and at special occasions, leading those present in an appropriate prayer. This festive event is open to members, family, relatives, and guests. The celebration of Śledź is the Chicago Society's version of Christian and Polish traditions that date back centuries. It is a celebration of carnival, or Mardi Gras—the period immediately preceding Lent. Following our pageant will be an open bar and raffle with prizes. Music by DJ Kamil. The cost is \$40.00 per person. For reservations or information call Brother Mark at 773-502-6969 or Brother Charles at 773-286-7123 or purchase your tickets online through PayPal at [www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html).



### 2016 DESERVING CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Saturday, December 17, 2016, the Annual Chicago Society Deserving Children's Christmas Party was held at the Polish National Alliance Headquarters in Chicago. As in the past, Brother Frank Spula, President, and Charles Komosa, National Secretary of the PNA made it possible to have the event held at the Home Office. There were fifty-six children present. The party started at 1:00 p.m. A lunch of hot dogs, chips, cookies, soda and milk was served. This was followed by a magic act which was well received by the children, while anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus. With Jingle Bells being sung, Santa (Richard Ciesla) arrived. Each child received a gift which was addressed by name and age. Upon leaving, each child received an envelope containing five dollars. The Chairman of the event, Ro Matuszczak, thanks his wife Chris Matuszczak, who was in charge of the kitchen, and her helper Maria Ciesla, to Co-Chair Peter Dykas for donating and serving soda, to Chuck Cwiakala's daughter, Tanya Theodosakis and her children Max and Eva. Thanks also to the Nowaczyk family, Brother Bob and his two sons, Vincent and Liam, as well as Charles Komosa for the tables being set up, and to our picture taker and helper Ted Wiecek. Again, thanks so much to all for your time and efforts.



Donations were received from PNC Bank (\$1,250.00), through the efforts of Mario Pucharic of Integra Communications; a former member now living in Texas, Ted Szywala (\$300.00); **Richard M. Wiernanski** (\$100.00) who resides in Maryland; and Brother **Robert Radkowski** (\$300.00), Vice President of the Polish and Slavic American Credit Union. We are grateful for their help. Gift wrappers were Chris Matuszczak, and Brother Ro's daughters, Yvonne Koontz, Renee Robinson and her daughter Haley Robinson. A heartfelt thanks to the volunteers and contributors for making the event a success. This was Brother Ro Matuszczak's 53rd year chairing the event.



## WIECZÓR KOLĘD

The Americans of Polish Descent (AMOPD) held its 26th Annual Wieczór Kolęd on January 8, 2017 at the Sheridan Shore Yacht Club on Wilmette. Many Chicago Society members enjoyed the festivities. Attending were Brothers President **Steve Rakowski**, **Peter Dykas**, **Chris Grzadziel**, **Zenon Kurdziel**, **Rom Poplawski** (who was the host of the event), **Wojtek Putz**, and **Ted Wiecek**. According to Chairman of the Board of AMOPD Alex Danel, the event is "an annual opportunity to reconnect with our childhood memories, our ethnic traditions, and our dual heritage."



Following a social hour, during which guests had an opportunity to rekindle old friendships and spark new ones at the warmth of a fireplace, the festivities began with the presentation of the Bethlehem Light of Peace by a

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



- 2 Gregory Ciesla
- 4 Robert Przybylowski
- 8 Zenon Olejniczak
- 13 Frank Gondela
- 15 Joseph Kotlarz
- 23 James Kolak
- 24 Robert Radkowski
- 26 Norbert Barszczewski
- 27 Frank Spula
- Carlton Marcyan
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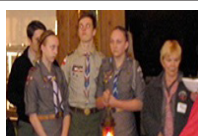
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delegation of harcerki and harcerze, led by Lucia Bucka.

The evening continued with an old-fashioned sing-along of both Polish kolędy and English Christmas carols and songs. All participated enthusiastically and with gusto. Following the sing-along, attendees broke opłatek, wishing each other health and prosperity in the coming year. All then proceeded to the sumptuous buffet, with a wide variety of delicious Polish food items from Laramie Bakery and Deli (generously donated by Brother **Bill Wojcik**), Kasia's Deli, and Delightful Pastries. All in attendance enjoyed a pleasant evening, networking with friends and sharing their cultural heritage.

photos courtesy of Csaba Zongor, from  
<http://qwickguide.com/index.php?qw=1&pg=166&al=409>



President Steve Rakowski with friends

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate Brother **Walter Kolodziej**, who is celebrating the 15th Anniversary of his induction into the Chicago Society, and Brother **Peter Dykas**, Brother **Robert Mance**, and Brother **Frank Spula**, all celebrating the 10th Anniversary of their induction into the Chicago Society.



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## 2017 CHICAGO SOCIETY DUES STATEMENTS MAILED!

Financial Secretary Brother **Richard Jadcak** has recently mailed members their 2017 Chicago Society dues statements. Dues can be paid on the Chicago Society website's PayPal link, by mail, or given to a Chicago Society director at a meeting if Brother Richard Jadcak is not available. As usual, the 2017 CS Membership Dues are due by February 28, 2017. To make dues payments easily and conveniently via PayPal, with no convenience fee, using your credit card or checking account simply go to <http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html>

## PAY DUES ON-LINE

## AVOID THE 2017 DELINQUENT MEMBER PUBLICATION!

February is the last month to pay your 2017 Chicago Society dues to avoid having your name published in the March Forum as being delinquent. Pursuant to the Chicago Society By-Laws, names of members who have not paid their current year's membership dues will be considered delinquent, their names will be published in the March Forum, and membership will be suspended until reinstated. Please contact Chicago Society Financial Secretary Brother Richard Jadcak if you feel your name was listed in error or for payment arrangements at 847-639-2327, or you can pay via PayPal at <http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/payments.html> with no convenience fee.

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### CARLTON'S WILD PYRENEES MOTORCYCLE JOURNEY

Endless curves, high mountain passes and breathtaking scenery; together with four others, my brother Chris included; we rode motorcycles through the Pyrenees Mountains separating northern Spain and southern France. Departing from Chicago on Air Lingus travelling through Dublin with destination Barcelona we were then outfitted through IMTBike of Spain with the latest BMW motorcycles, GPSs with tour routes and hotel reservations at former castles, churches and schools that were now exquisite hotels with full amenities.

From mid-September for two weeks we rode on narrow, two-lane mountain roads, crisscrossing between Spain, France and Andorra, beginning just outside Barcelona and then daily destinations of towns such as Aiguablava, Seu D'Urgell, Bielsa, Tramacastilla, San Sebastián, Pamplona, Caldes de Boi, and Cardona along our route. The roads were those used for the Tour de France and are highly technical and dangerous with hundreds of blind curves and cows on the road! Speed limit is 90 km/hr (about 56 miles per hour) on most of these roadways and with lots of oncoming traffic going in excess of the speed limit.

It was helpful, but not necessary, to have ability to speak some Spanish; Spaniards are required to study English as a second language during their schooling and more than willing to use their skill. Sitting down to eat provided the best opportunity to converse with the natives in their tongue only to find out that Spain is full of many dialects, including Catalan and the unique language of the Basque people. There were many places of beauty including that of the seaside city of San Sebastian and close by, Pamplona.

We encountered many interesting people including, three Scottish bikers riding motocross across the country and the owner of the Caldes de Boi Hotel in the high mountains who apparently is one of the richest men in Spain who provided us a tour of his private motorcycle collection numbering in the hundreds. Walter Ankil's father sold the family hydroelectric company to United Technologies some years ago.

Typically riding from about 9:00 a.m. each day until 5:30 p.m. and taking a few breaks along the way, we ate lunch in storybook-like towns in the valleys with unique restaurants with friendly staff and patrons. Evening dinners were quite a treat with local cuisine punctuated with live music; one evening in particular in Pamplona was quite memorable as we rode our bikes through the town square pulling up to the Gran Hotel La Perla where we were staying, and Hemingway did almost one hundred years ago. We had a fine dinner in a restaurant in the square, enjoying Spanish Rioja wine and local specialties known as pintxos, the Basque version of tapas.

Overall, one of the greatest trips I have been on: physically challenging, beautiful and full of biker camaraderie.

Carlton R. Marcyan



### HELP NEEDED

One of our own, Chicago Society member, Robert "Rocky" Nowaczyk's son, Vincent Nowaczyk, recently graduated from Illinois State University, in August, 2016, with a major in Human and Educational Services. He is looking for a full time position in his major field. If any member knows of a position available, please contact Vince at email, [vnowaczyk@yahoo.com](mailto:vnowaczyk@yahoo.com) or cell # 847-525-1153.

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