



The Forum

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

VOLUME 64

JUNE 2013

NUMBER 6

DINNER NETWORKING MEETING

WEDNESDAY

June 19, 2013

6:00 P.M.

Przybylo's White Eagle Banquets
Niles, Illinois

RESERVATIONS

by June 17 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

or 847-823-8747

NEXT BOARD MEETING AND FORUM DEADLINE

Monday, July 2, 7:00 P.M.

Folak's Lincoln Tavern

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 19, 2013—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle

Thursday, July 11, 2013—
Chicago Society Golf Outing
Carriage Greens Country Club, Darien

Wednesday, July 17, 2013—
Dinner Meeting
Przybylo's White Eagle

Sunday, August 11, 2013—
Friends and Family Picnic
Busse Woods

THE GOLF OUTING IS JUST AHEAD

Brother **Charles Komosa**, Chairman of the Chicago Society's 2013 Golf Outing, invites all members, business associates, family, and friends to reserve their spots for the Chicago Society Golf Outing. The annual event will take place on Thursday, July 11, 2013 at the Carriage Greens Country Club located at 8700 Carriage Greens Drive in Darien, Illinois. The day will begin with a cookout lunch in the outdoor pavilion along with check-in at 10:30 a.m. The Shotgun scramble starts at noon sharp. There will be a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course with free drinks and snacks and other surprises. An open bar and appetizers will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the banquet room, and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.



The cost is only \$100.00 per person, including golf, cart, cookout lunch, beverages, dinner and cocktails, or \$35.00 per person for those interested in only dinner and cocktails. Yes, we are planning for the world famous grand raffle!

Please call Brother **Charles Komosa** at 773-286-7123 to reserve your golf foursomes (individual golfers also welcome). Please call if you or your company would like to donate raffle prizes.

JEW IN POLAND DURING THE HOLOCAUST: OUR JUNE SPEAKER

Our speaker at the June meeting will be Michael H. Traison, who will speak on the topic: "Jews in the heart of Poland and Poland in the heart of the Jews: the relationship between two nations sharing the same soil." Mr. Traison is a widely recognized expert in helping businesses solve their commercial problems. He also represents clients with interests throughout the world with a special focus on Israel, Poland, the Czech Republic and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

Why do so many Jews in some ways "have more powerful, passionate feelings about Poland than about Germany?" he asks. Traison wanted to find answers for himself on these matters, and for that, he had to visit Poland. He flew to Warsaw, alone, intending to stay for four days. On that first visit, "for whatever reason, I had positive experiences," he says. "I encountered Poles and they saw me walking, wearing a *kippah*. People would offer to show me the local cemeteries or synagogues. They viewed it as part of their own Polish history and culture." His trips to Poland grew more frequent and his involvement in projects relating to the Holocaust and the country's Jewish population more intensive. Today he spends about 25 percent of his time there—about a week out of every month—and is now engaged in 75 different projects.



Much of his work in Poland is devoted to visiting synagogues, cemeteries, museums, and Holocaust memorial sites. He founded the Michael Traison Fund for Poland. He is also the founder of the "Righteous Poles Preserving Jewish Memory" award, which has honored over 170 non-Jewish Poles in 15 ceremonies recognizing the selfless work of dedicated people,

—Continued on Page 2—



CHICAGO
SOCIETY
Forum

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DID YOU MAKE YOUR
MEETING RESERVATION?

FROM THE
EDITOR'S PEN

For the 212th time, Chicago's Polonia and its supporters celebrated Poland's Constitution of 1791, the first democratic constitution in Europe, patterned after our own Constitution. On a beautiful Saturday afternoon, close to 100 units participated in the Parade, spanning many generations—from the veterans to the children. There were units representing every aspect of life in Polonia: veterans' groups, professional societies, fraternal organizations, hometown clubs, social service agencies, student groups. The Podhalani (mountaineers) were, as always, especially impressive. It is amazing how strongly they keep their unique culture alive, ensuring that the younger generations carry on their traditions. It was so heart-warming to see so many children and youth marching, from the Saturday schools, dance ensembles, Harcerstwo, and other youth groups, enthusiastically showing their pride in the White and Red, which the veterans so gallantly fought to defend. Smiling children from thirty Polish schools were in the Parade, ranging from Wauconda to Joliet and Munster, Indiana.

What was sadly missing was spectators. I would venture to say that over 90% of those watching were Polish, and many of those were participants or their families. I would further venture that there were more participants than spectators. Where was everyone? The Parade is our annual display of our pride and our strength. But, what good is that if there is no one to show it to? We Poles are the fifth largest ethnic group in the state of Illinois. There should have been thousands of us lining Columbus Drive cheering on the marchers and showing our strength. Sadly, the only people we were impressing were ourselves.

Similarly, there was a noticeable lack of non-Polish units. It used to be that the JROTC units of many Chicago high schools participated with a marching band. This year, there was only one such JROTC unit, from Prosser High School. There were only a handful of non-Polish businesses or other units. In addition, with the notable exception of our die-hard supporters, there was a lack of politicians.

Could it be that we as a community are losing our impact, our strength? Or could it be that we have become so divided that we can no longer use our unity to our advantage? This divisiveness is something we as a community need to examine and somehow combat. How can society look to us with authority when we can't exert any authority over ourselves?

Another area in which we are sorely lacking is publicity. Was there any non-Polish press at the Parade? Was there any coverage of the Parade, either before or after?

The Parade costs a lot of time, money, and other resources. Is it worth it? Is it attaining its desired goal? Perhaps it has come time for the Parade organizers to look long and hard at the Parade (and all of our observances of Polish Constitution Day), and determine what, of any changes need to be made to increase both the exposure and the impact of the Parade. Let's make sure that everyone can see that Polish pride.

CONDOLENCES

Virginia P. Wrobel, 90, nee Plackiewicz, wife of our late Brother **Frank J. Wrobel** passed away recently at the age of 90. Frank Wrobel was a longtime and active member of the Chicago Society. He and Virginia participated in one of our trips to Poland. Our condolences to the family.

JUNE SPEAKER (Continued from Psge 1)

often working alone upon their own initiative to ensure that Poland's Jewish heritage will be remembered.

Among the many awards Mr. Traison has received for his work in preserving the memory of Jews in Poland are the Polish-American Heritage Award, from the Polish-American Heritage Council in 2003, and the International Humanitarian Award at the Jerusalem Peace Dinner in 2008. Make sure to reserve your spot for this very informative talk at our dinner meeting on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at Przybylo's. You can email your reservation (preferable) to meeting@chicagosocietypna.org, or call 847-823-8747.



- The Illinois Division of the Polish American Congress held its annual election of officers on May 20, 2013 for the 2013—2014 term. Elected and installed as president was Irene Moskal del Guidice. Other officers include: Brother **Zenon Olejniczak**, 1st Vice President; Brother **Kenneth Gill**, Corresponding Secretary; and Brother **Walter Zarnecki**, Vice President.
- Former Brother **Rocky Polit** reached out to Brothers **Charles Komosa**, **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert**, and **Frank Czaja** a few weeks ago from Valparaiso, Chile. Rocky informed the brothers that he is happily married to his second wife, Angelica, and moved to Chile with her three years ago after spending six years in Italy. Rocky said that they rent an apartment in a high rise building very close to the coast and claimed that the fresh fish, vegetables and good wine provide a happy life. Rocky informed the brothers that he will return to the "good ole" US of A in the next 24 months. He and his wife are starting an import and export business of sweet confections they purchase in neighboring Argentina. ¡Buena Suerte, Señor Rocky! (That means "Good luck! in Spanish.)
- Congratulations to Emily Jendzjec, Brother **Stanley Jendzjec's** oldest granddaughter, for earning her Master of Divinity Degree from the prestigious Harvard Divinity School. Brother Jendzjec along with Brother **Tom Pawelko** attended a graduation party for Emily in Maine in May. The young lady is

planning on becoming a minister.

- Brother **Charles Komosa** traveled to Anchorage, Alaska for a brief business trip and was awed by the natural beauty of the state. He mentioned that the amenities were first class and that his igloo had central air conditioning.
- Brother **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** traveled to Schofield, Wisconsin, a suburb of Wausau, on June 1-2, 2013, for a performance by the International Polka Association's Tribute Band. The leader of the band is Dan Mateja, who will soon be inducted into the Chicago Society. The event, which attracted an enthusiastic crowd, took place at a huge complex called Dale's Weston Lanes and Conference Center.
- Brother **Don Gutowski** resigned from the Copernicus Foundation Board in May, after serving for over 30 years. Over those years, he served as a President, Executive Vice President, and as a Director. He was recently honored for his service to the Foundation with the Copernican Award.

SIGN THE PETITION TO INCLUDE POLAND IN THE U.S.A. VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

Just a few days ago, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) joined a long list of politicians that are encouraging members of Congress to include Poland in the Visa Waiver Program. Sign the petition today to a letter being sent to all members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. Please share this important petition with all your friends and family in order to make sure Washington hears our concerns! To sign the petition, go to <http://pal-pac.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d84beg667f5aac5997fc41531&id=715ofc159d&e=8589a5ec2e> to have your voice heard!

CHICAGO SOCIETY FOUNDATION APPROVES NUMEROUS GRANTS

The Chicago Society Foundation held its most recent quarterly meeting on April 22, 2013. In the interest of keeping the membership informed of its grant activities, the Foundation reports that it substantially funded the Chicago Society's three scholarship awards presented at the Pre-Parade Brunch, namely, \$3000 to Samantha Dziadkowiec, \$2000 to Paul Obrobina, Jr. and \$1000 to Brittany Kowalski. In addition, a grant of \$1000 was made to Jan Kochanowski School of Polish Culture.

For those interested, the Chicago Society's website has information on grants made by the Foundation over the years, as well as its history and governance. The membership can be rightfully proud that its Foundation has provided a wealth of support, not only for its own scholarship winners, but to a host of worthy organizations and causes throughout Polonia. Its prudent and careful investment policies will assure support to Polonia for many years to come.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE 2013 ELECTIONS

Yes, it is only June; however, it is time to think about the nominating committee for the upcoming 2013 elections. According to the Constitution, "at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors in August, the President with the approval of the Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee of five members and two alternates, all members in good standing, none of whom shall be a current officer or director.

No member shall be eligible to serve on the nominating committee who has served in that capacity for the previous two consecutive years." Anyone interested in being on this committee please see President **Orwat** after the June meeting or email him.

Also, if you would be interested in being the head of the committee let him know. This committee is an important step in helping us guide our future.

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POLISH AMERICAN SURVEY 2013

All Polish-Americans are invited to participate in a study being conducted by The Piast Institute. The study, entitled "Polish American Survey of 2013," is conducted in collaboration with the University of British Columbia (UBC) and the Piast Institute. The University of British Columbia is a major research university located in Vancouver, Canada. The Piast Institute is a National Research Institute for Polish and Polish American Affairs and a not-for-profit organization located in Hamtramck, Michigan, USA. This survey is a continuation of polling conducted by the Piast Institute in the years 2008-2010. The goal of the project is to assess the opinions and attitudes of Polish Americans about politics in general, culture, important issues, the relationship between Polonia and both the US and Poland, and the Polish American community itself.



In order to participate in this study, simply take an online survey of 67 questions, which takes around 15 minutes to complete. The survey is completely anonymous as no personally identifying information is collected. If you are interested in participating in the survey and you are a voting age adult, living in the United States of America who identifies as Polish or of Polish background, please go to the following link <http://ls.arts.ubc.ca/index.php/survey/index/sid/726466/lang/en>.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT DEFEATED

At the General Meeting held on May 15, 2013, the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Chicago Society to allow women as members was defeated by a vote of 15 for and 20 against. Our thanks to all those members who exercised their right to vote and allowed their voices to be heard.

**YOU CAN SPONSOR
A NEW MEMBER**

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY PRE-PARADE BRUNCH

The Chicago Society held its Annual Pre-Parade Brunch celebrating the Polish Constitution at the Hilton Chicago on Saturday, May 4, 2013. There were two hundred fifteen persons present. Chairman Brother **Ro Matuszczak** introduced the Chicago Society President, Brother **Mark Orwat**, who greeted the guests present. This was followed by Co-Chair Brother **T. Ron Jasinski Herbert**, who led the participants with the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was given by Father Jason Torba, pastor of St. Ferdinand's Parish.

President Orwat then presented the Chicago Society scholarships to 1st Place winner, \$3,000.00 Samantha Dziadkowiec; 2nd Place winner, \$2,000.00, Paul Odrobina, Jr.; and 3rd Place winner \$1,000.00 Brittany Kowalski. Speakers during the brunch were: Ted Czajkowski, President of the Alliance of Polish Clubs and Parade Chairman; Brother **Frank Spula**, President of the Polish National Alliance and President of the Polish American Congress; Honorable Paulina Kapuścińska, Consul General of the Republic of Poland; **Joseph Drobot, Jr.**, President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union; Delphine Honeycutt, President of the Polish Women's Alliance; Dan Rutherford; Illinois State Treasurer; Judy Baar Topinka; Illinois State Comptroller; Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Board President; Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County; Joseph Berrios, Cook County Assessor; and Dr. Bronislaw Orawiec, Grand Marshal of the Parade.

Other notables and guests were as follows: Aldermen **Robert Fioretti**, 2nd Ward; John Arena, 45th Ward; Ariel Reboyras, 30th Ward; Ray Suarez, 31st Ward and who is Vice Mayor of Chicago; and Nicholas Sposato, 36th Ward; Mona Noriega, Commissioner Department of Human Relations of the Mayor's Office; Mary Anselmo, President Illinois Division, Polish American Congress; Angelo Soriano, President of Elmwood Park; Lucille Gutowski, representing the Polish Women's Civic Club, Dorothy Malachowski, President "Dar Serca" (Gift From the Heart Association); Adult Cultural Club Cinderella Ball winners, Kelsy M. Cetnarowski – Cinderella; Prince Charming – David M. Zuk; Cinderella runner-up Kamila Staczek and Prince Charming runner-up Jeremiah Stanke; Robert F. Martwick, State Representative 19th District; Polish National Alliance Officers Teresa Abick, Vice President; Brother **Paul Odrobina**, Vice President; Marian Grabowski, National Treasurer; National Secretary and Co-Chairman of the Brunch, **Charles Komosa**; Anna Sokolowska, Vice President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union; Michelle Hendrickson, President of the Advocates Society; Paul Sosnowski, a National Vice President of the Polish American Congress, who came from Philadelphia; Marijania Spyropoulos, Commissioner with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Chicago; Polish Women's Alliance of America. Also present were Sharon Zago, Vice President and Treasurer of the Illinois Division, Polish American Congress; Harwood Heights delegation of Mayor Arlene Jezierny; City Clerk Marcia Pollawy and Trustees Annette Volpe and Lester Szlendak; **John Pikarski, Jr.**, an ardent supporter of the Brunch; Legion of Young Polish Women debutantes from the White and Red Ball; Queen Katarzyna Maniak, 1st runner-up Kasia Napienska and 2nd runner-up Kathy Wyszowski; Bozena Haszlakiewicz, Chair of the 2014 White and Red Ball and LMP Financial Secretary; Brother **Gary Kenzer**, Executive Director of the Polish American Association; Brother Members **Don Gutowski**, Chairman Emeritus of the Copernicus Foundation and **John Wojciechowski**, Vice President of the Foundation; Brigadier General James W. Schroeder, Commander of the Illinois Air National Guard; Robert Bielinski, Mayor of the City of Wilmette; Andrew Gedlek, President of the Polish Highlanders Organization; our Chicago Society member **Andrew Przybylo**, Mayor of Niles; a good Polonia supporter, Kasia Bober; Hon. Danel Kubasiak, Judge of the Circuit Court; Hon. Aurelia Pucinski, Judge of the Appellate Court; Marzena Wierzbowska, Board Chairman of the Polish and Slavic Credit Union, and Zbigniew Rogalski, Vice President of the Midwest Region; and last but not least, Parade Queen Klaudia Kukulka and her Court, Anna Cichocka and Magda Elzakowska.

This was **Ro Matuszczak's** thirty-sixth year of chairing and involvement with the Parade. Thank you to Co-Chairs Brother **T. Ron Jasinski Herbert** and Brother **Charles Komosa** for their assistance. Special thanks to Chris Matuszczak, wife of Ro Matuszczak, and Agata Komosa, wife of Charles Komosa, who were in charge of the reception.

PACC: A NEW LOOK AND A NEW DIRECTION

Our speakers at the May meeting were Bogdan Pukszta, Executive



Director of the Polish American Chamber of Commerce (PACC) and Dan Bara, a member of the PACC board. Mr. Pukszta began his talk by stating that the PACC mirrors the Chicago Society. Founded in 1994, the Chamber has two dimensions: 1) serving as a network of support for Polish business owners, and 2) developing business relationships with Poland. Since the elimination of the commerce consul at the Polish Consulate in Chicago, the PACC serves as a conduit to foster relationships with the business community in Poland. The PACC strives to bring together similar organizations located across the US and Canada and to strengthen relationships. Mr. Pukszta stated that it is vital for a business to operate not as in island, but to collaborate with others, increasing the pool of resources.

Mr. Bara spoke of some of the recent developments of the PACC, including: opening offices at the Copernicus Center; restructuring the Board of Directors; and developing a growth and development strategy. The PACC has migrated to Google Apps for business, has a new website, introduced an internship program, and has created a new logo with branding, just recently rolled-out. The PACC is aiming to grow both horizontally and vertically. Some of the strategies the PACC is employing are: developing and strengthening networking among member, sponsor corporate-supported events, drive memberships with high profile events; reach out to broader European communities. A network of

Dear Brothers,

All of the May celebrations behind us. The month of May ended with Memorial Day with the remembrance of all who have served and sacrificed for our country. The month of June continues with Flag Day to be held at the PNA office on June 14th. The month of June will be filled with graduations, vacations and outdoor events enjoyed by all. Right around the corner is our annual Golf Outing, chaired by Brother Komosa with Brothers Czaja and Skaja as sign chairmen. This event will be held on Thursday, July 11th at Carriage Greens in Darien. The cost has stayed the same at \$100; invite your family, friends and co-workers as spots will fill up. You are also encouraged to support our scholarship fund by purchasing a tee sign, or by asking your business associates, clients, or any one you do business with to support this worthy cause. Contact Brother **Komosa** at (773) 286-7123 to reserve your spot.

Have a safe 4th of July, however you may spend it. Also, please don't forget to support your brother members' businesses. In addition, please let us know if you have any suggestions.

Fraternally Yours,
Mark Orwat



embassies has been formed with Google in Kraków, and 5 companies are to be represented at Tech Week, with the theme "Do It with Poland." Both Mr. Pukszta and Mr. Barr feel that this new direction, with its new look, will foster new growth and success for businesses in both Poland and in Polonia.

POLISH CONSTITUTION DAY: CHICAGO SOCIETY MARCHERS

The Chicago Society entry in the Parade consisted of a marching unit and a float. The following Chicago Society members marched in the Chicago Society entry: **Fred Koziol; Frank** and wife **Darlene Czaja; Richard Bivins; Mark Orwat; Robert Groszek; Richard Kula; Andrew Zapalski; Darek Kozlowski; James Kolak; Bill Drozd** and friend; **Andrew Pawlikowski** and wife **Anna; Mario Mikoda; Terry Przybylski; T. Ron Jasinski Herbert** and **Ro Matuszczak**. Brother Andrew quite possibly set a

record. While many of the marchers walked with other units, Andrew marched with 3 (yes, three) units: the Chicago Society, the Polish Museum of America, and the Polish American Engineer's Association. What a workout! A thank you to all!

CZECH SUGGESTS MERGER WITH POLISH STOCK EXCHANGE

Warsaw (PMN)—Czech President Milos Zeman came out in favor of the merger of the Prague and Warsaw stock exchanges into one institution based in Warsaw, adding that a "Central European stock exchange" would be a stronger counterplayer to the other exchanges, at a Polish-Czech economic forum May 24, 2013.

Zeman told the Czech Press Agency (CTK) that the Prague bourse (BCCP) has been declining over a lack of managerial capabilities.

The Warsaw Exchange's performance has already exceeded that of the Vienna bourse.



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PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following gentleman has applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. If any member has an objection regarding the admission of these prospective members, 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: Benjamin Sipiora
 Address: 3643 N. Page Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60634
 Phone: 773-802-2000
 Occupation: Manager, City of Chicago
 Birth date: December 16, 1062
 Birthplace: Poland
 Sponsors: Charles Komosa
 and Mark Orwat

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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

- 6 William Kolodziej
- 7 Joseph Kizior
- 8 Hubert Cioromski
- 10 Casey Baczynski
- 16 Adam Augustynski
- 16 Stanley Jendzejec
- 17 Krzysztof Kielczewski
- 20 Bernard Pacyniak
- 22 Lukasz Wrobel
- 25 Kenneth Walczak
- 28 Walter Sojka
 Donald Versen, Sr.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following brother members, who are celebrating the anniversary of their induction this month.

Andrew Batorski	1983	30 years
Walter Sojka	1998	15 years
Raymond Golenia	2008	5 years

INDUCTED TO MEMBERSHIP

We welcome **Michael Gadzinski**, sponsored by Brothers **T. Ron Jasinski-Herbert** and **Charles Komosa**, who was sworn in as a member at our last meeting. *Witamy!*

CHICAGO SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY 1ST PLACE WINNER – SAMANTHA DZIADKOWIEC

How Would You Motivate People of Polish Descent to Unite Polonia?

[Editor's note: The wrong essay was submitted to the Editor for publication as the 1st place essay for the 2012 Scholarship. The essay that appeared in last month's issue of The Forum was actually written by Mark Pawlas, submitted for the 2011 Scholarship.]

When I was a little girl, I used to consider my family Super-Polish. At that young age, my family had me convinced that even though we were American citizens, we were not American; we were Polish people living in America. My parents had raised me with a vow to always keep me immersed in the Polish culture, regardless of whether I liked it or not. It did not matter to my parents that all the other American girls I knew were in girl scouts; my Saturdays had to be devoted to Polish school. And when the time came that all the American girls were joining hip-hop and cheerleading, my parents signed me up for Polish dance, as if that was the same thing. At that age, all I wanted was to be Americanized; enough so that kids at school wouldn't stare and question the Polish lunches my mom packed for me every day. But today, I feel much differently about those experiences. Because, let's face it, kielbasa and rye bread taste a lot better than peanut butter and jelly! Instead of being embarrassed, I am now thankful. But by the same token, I also worry. I am worried for my generation of young adults of Polish descent; I worry because I see it in my own young sibling's lives. We as a society of people of Polish descent are becoming more and more out of touch with our own culture. Our language is fading, our pride is fleeting and our culture is disappearing. As second generation immigrants and beyond, it is our obligation as Poles to keep alive the Polish traditions and values that our parents brought over to this country. In essence, we are at a crucial time period in which uniting Polonia and rekindling our cultural flame is vital for the sake of the Polish community.

But how do we motivate people to go back to their Polish roots, or come together even, to celebrate and stand together as a united community? The only way is through personal connection. When you connect with people and make them believe that you understand their history, traditions, and beliefs—that will motivate them to unite. Every Polish family in this country has at least one story of some family member or relative that came to this country with absolutely nothing. However, we all know that story is not totally true. Our relatives did not come to this country with nothing, they brought their culture! Therefore we owe it to those family members to cherish that gift of culture they brought over to this country with them. But we as a Polish community rarely come together to communicate and share those personal stories. I believe if we had seminars or conventions, where we could address a wide variety of topics that would pertain to and be of interest to the Polish community, the people of Polonia would be motivated to stand proudly together. These seminars would be a place where new Polish immigrants to this country can hear personal stories and advice from "older" immigrants about how they built their lives in this country. These new immigrants could also be introduced to employers, both Polish and non-Polish, looking for new employees. Mothers would be attracted to discussions about raising second generation Polish children in an American society. There could also be sessions in which any member of the Polish community could speak out about any issue or recommendation he or she thinks would benefit the Polish community as a whole.

There are also other options to explore such as Polish language and humanities. If our language isn't getting passed down from generation to generation, we should create Polish language learning schools, which, unlike traditional Polish schools that require students to already speak the language, would be catered to English speakers. This way, we would allow families of Polish descent to immerse their non-Polish speaking children in the language without overburdening them. If our Polish humanities is what needs work, we should set up more theaters that not only showcase Polish musicians and plays but Polish movies that are playing in theaters in Poland today. This way people in the United States can talk to their relatives back in Poland about the same things they are

— Continued Next Page—

watching in their own theaters.

Clearly, there are a wide array of ways and ideas about how to get the Polish community united together. However, the one thing that connects all these ideas together is building personal connections. Because through personal connections, people come together for the greater good.


[Editor's note: The above essay was edited for mechanics, but not for content.]

POLISH TRIVIA

The first parade in observance of Poland's Constitution in Chicago was held in 1891, on the 100th Anniversary of the Constitution. What route did the parade follow? Send your response to editor@chicagosocietypna.org.

Answer to May's Question: Dr. Hilary Koprowski was a virologist and immunologist, inventor of the world's first effective live polio vaccine, which became the basis for the injected vaccine that was subsequently created by Jonas Salk.

**DON'T MISS THE
GOLF OUTING
THURSDAY, JULY 11**



HUBERT J. CIROMSKI
President

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FOLKLORE OF POLAND

The next region we'll visit is Mazowsze (Mazovia), in the center of Poland. Mazowsze is a low-lying region. To the north is the Mazovian Lowland; to the east, the South Podlasiian Lowland; and to the south, the Iłża Foreland. The Mazovia region is spread over the Masovian Plain on both sides of the Vistula River and its confluence with the Narew. In the north Mazowsze borders on the Mazurian region of former Old Prussia, in the east on Podlasie, on Małopolska in the south and Wielkopolska in the west. Warsaw is the largest metropolis in the region; other large cities include Radom, Płock, Siedlce, Ostrołęka, and Pruszków.

The Mazowsze region is rich in natural, cultural, and economic resources. As such, the folk costumes throughout the region are quite lavish. Common in women's costume throughout the region are woolen "jumpers" (one-piece costumes) in bright stripes (*pasiaki*) with variations among the sub regions. The most widely known costumes of the region are those from Łowicz. The history of the development of the woolen woven cloth used and of the garments made from it is carefully recorded and skillfully presented in the unique ethnographic museum in Łowicz. The traditional wear of the Łowicz region is one of the most beautiful in all of Poland, rich in colorful woven patterns and ornate embroidery. These are also the most lavish. The skirt of the jumper is the characteristic brightly striped wool; the bodice is richly beaded black velvet. The women's blouses are intricately embroidered, including the cuffs on "winter" (long-sleeved) blouses. On very special occasions, women even wear embroidered socks. Throughout the region, the women's aprons are also the same striped wool; in cold weather, the aprons double as a wrap that the women place on their shoulders to stay warm. Sharing these woolen striped costumes, though not as lavish, are women's costumes from Opoczno, Sieradz, and Kurpie. The costumes of the men include the same brightly colored woolen pants, with a (usually) black sleeveless jacket (*lejbik*) and a white overcoat.



Their hats are adorned with flowers and a colored band.

Music is a very important part of Mazowsze folklore. The melodies and songs are very old; nobody knows who composed them. They were passed on to succeeding generations by word of mouth, without any written musical notes or words. The songs have various themes: they speak about courtship, love, and mourning; they are shepherd's songs, ballads, and lullabies, or special ones for the seasonal rites and family celebrations, such as harvest, Easter, funerals and weddings. It is characteristic that no harmonizing is done while singing or playing the music, i.e., the singers and the musicians all sing and play the same melody, maybe only in a different key or an octave higher or lower.



Also popular in Mazowsze are *wycinanki* (paper cut-outs). *Wycinanki* originated with shepherds cutting designs out of tree bark and leather. Colorful *wycinanki* were pasted on furniture or roof beams as decoration, hung in windows, and given as gifts. *Wycinanki* vary by region. For example, *wycinanki* created in the Kurpie region are typically all one color, while *wycinanki* from the Łowicz region are multicolored. Techniques include cutting, clipping, punching, tearing, and carving of paper, as well as *nalepianki* in which multiple layers are glued together.

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