



# The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 69

June 2018

NUMBER 6

## COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, June 20, 2018

June General Meeting  
White Eagle Events &  
Convention Center  
6:00 pm

RESERVATIONS

by June 18 to

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

or (773) 444-0744 or

<https://www.chicagosocietypna.org>

Monday, July 2, 2018

July Board Meeting  
PNA Home Office 6:00 pm

FORUM Deadline

Send all articles to

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

Friday, July 13, 2018

Chicago Society/ Charles  
Komosa Memorial Golf Outing  
Gleneagles Country Club  
Lemont, IL

Sunday, August 19, 2018

Chicago Society Picnic  
Busse Woods West Forest  
Preserve, Grove #31  
12:00 pm

## June 2018 Speaker & Dinner Meeting

Our speaker for the June General Meeting will be our new Brother member **Zygmunt Dyrkacz**.

Zygmunt Dyrkacz was born in Poland's oldest city, Kalisz. He graduated from 5 year Biological Gymnasium then studied Zoology. In 1980 he was selected by United States Information Agency for an exchange program to the U.S. Because of martial law, he decided to stay and continue his education at Michigan State University where he graduated with a degree in Natural Sciences with specialization in Entomology and Biochemistry. In the late 1980s he purchased, at a demolition sale, three buildings on the Polish Triangle (the intersection of Milwaukee, Ashland & Division) and in 1990 he purchased Chopin Theatre. One year later he was divorced, his ex wife moved to New York and he stayed at Chopin Theatre with his two sons, one with special needs. In 2001 he married Lela Headd, an African American. Lela moved to Chopin Theatre and they later had two sons. The family splits their time between Chicago and Miller Beach, IN. Although Zygmunt is legally retired he practically works 70-80 hours a week having fun at Chopin Theatre. Recipient of several highest awards from various Polish governments including PiS and PO; trustee on behalf of Solidarity supervising and signing results of the first free Polish election.

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## Chicago Society/Charles Komosa Golf Outing



Mark Orwat, the Chicago Society's 2018 Golf Outing Chairman and Steve Rakowski invite all PNA members, business associates, family, and friends to reserve their spots for the golf outing.

As always, there are only 144 spots available. The event is planned for Friday, July 13, 2018 at the Gleneagles Country Club located at 13070 McCarthy Road, Lemont Illinois 60439.

The day will begin with a cookout lunch in the outdoor pavilion along with check-in at 12:00 pm. The Shotgun scramble starts at 1:30 pm sharp. There will be a fleet of beverage carts patrolling the golf course, and other surprises. Open bar and appetizers will begin at 5:30 pm in the banquet room. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm.

We are planning for the world famous grand raffle and 50/50 squares! Please call if you or your company

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## CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

A monthly news bulletin for the  
Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications  
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Dear Brothers,



Sorry to say but the fishing outing had to be postponed. I think the weather on May 20th was the worst weather day of the entire month! Waves were 4-6', temperatures were in the 40's and it rained most of the day. For the safety and comfort of the participants I had to cancel. However, I am working with the charter boat captain to schedule new dates. Please stay tuned. New dates will be published in the July Forum.

We are down to 122 members in good standing. That is the lowest number in recent history. Unfortunately, the Board of Directors is faced with the uncomfortable obligation of revoking the memberships of over twenty members who chose not to renew their memberships. It is incumbent on all members-not just officers and directors-to take steps to bolster membership. I call on each one of you to recruit at least one member this year. As I have said many times, the Chicago Society cannot continue to maintain the same member benefits given its current revenue. To help me and the Board continue to provide the same services and benefits to Chicago Society member, please do whatever you can to encourage new members to join and old ones to renew.

Thank you to all of my Chicago Society brothers who attended the Polish American Police Association gala. The evening was very enjoyable. Brother Obrecki and the rest of the PAPA Board did a marvelous job with the event. Over 350 supporters attended. It is important that we support Polish groups that support us. Historically, PAPA has been a generous supporter and I am glad we recognized the importance of reciprocating its generosity.

Summer is in full swing and many Polish organizations are holding events. Consider attending one of them. The Polish Museum of America, the Polish Arts Club and Dar Serca all have events in June.

Our golf outing is going to be special this year. We renamed it after our long-time friend and benefactor, Charles Komosa. Your support of this event will show other members and the broader community your respect and appreciation for the contributions Brother Komosa made to the Chicago Society over the years. More importantly, it will be an opportunity to help his family. At the outing there will be an opportunity to make a donation to two scholarship funds that will be established for Charlie and Alex. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Fraternally yours,

**Brother Steven Rakowski**

## Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch Round-Up

The Chicago Society held its Annual Pre-Parade Brunch on Saturday, May 5, 2018 celebrating the Polish Constitution at the Chicago Hilton. Chairman **Ro Matuszczak** opened the brunch and introduced our President, **Steve Rakowski**, who welcomed the guests. The night before, Steve was honored by PAPA (Polish American Polish Association) as their Man of the Year. Brother Ro then introduced co-chairs **Adam Konopka**, Advocate, and **Chris Grzadziel**, Director of Publications/Webmaster of the Chicago Society. **Walter Piecewicz**, Chicago Society Foundation Scholarship Chairman then called on recipients of the James Kulze Scholarship who are Sylvia Osos, Piotr Krolikowski, and Monica Zawisza. Each received a scholarship in the amount of \$7,500. Sylvia Osos was the only recipient present. Piotr is studying in Poland and Monica was unable to attend.



Brother **Stanley Sawa**, a U.S. Army Veteran who served from 1967-1969, said the Pledge of Allegiance. His Excellency Andrew Wypych, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago was called on to say the Invocation. During the brunch, introductions were made for Jan Kopec, Parade Committee Chairman and President of the Alliance of Polish Clubs; Tom Startek, Grand Marshal of the Parade who spoke, and Vice Marshals Henryk Janik and Edward Cyran. Also speaking were Piotr Janicki, Consul General of the Republic of Poland; Brother Member **Frank Spula**, Polish National Alliance President and President of the Polish American Congress; Joseph Drobot, Jr., President of the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America; Congressmen Peter Roskam and Luis Gutierrez; Illinois Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti; Illinois State

treasurer Michael Frerichs; Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Timothy Evans, who was named Friend of Polonia; Maria Pappas, Cook County Treasurer; Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County; Illinois State Representative Luis Arroyo, Jr. and Robert Martwick, Jr.; Mariyana Spyropoulos, President of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

There were numerous guests present: from Poland, Anna Paluch and Barbara Chrobak, Representatives to the Polish Parliament; LOT Polish Airlines Representative from Poland, Michael Fijol; Rev. Dr. B. Herbert Martin, Sr., President Council of Religious Leaders of Metropolitan Chicago; Anna Morzy, Past President Polish American Chamber of Commerce; **Robert Radkowski**, Vice President Head of the Midwest District of the Polish Slavic Federal Credit Union; Marta Almovodar-Office of Accessibility & Education Outreach – Received the Chicago Bar Association Vanguard Award Cook County Judicial Circuit Court; Stanley Koczen, President Polish American Chamber of Commerce; Bogdan Puksza, Executive Director, Poland Chamber of Commerce; Kristin Kozlowski Lyons, President – Advocates Society; Barbara Ciepiela, President, Legion of Young Polish Women; Parade Queen, Magda Tolinski; Polish Highlanders of America Queen, Karoline Nowowilska; Jozef



## Kulze Scholarship Winners

The Kulze Scholarship winners were announced in the April Forum. This year, the awards are being made to Piotr Królikowski, studying medicine at the Jagiellonian University Medical School in Kraków, Poland, Sylwia Osos, a psychology major at Loyola University, and Monica Zawisza, studying finance and management information systems at DePaul. These worthy students were chosen from a highly competitive group of qualified applicants.

Essays prepared by the awardees are being published over the succeeding months in the Forum. This month is the essay from Sylwia Osos.

### Sylwia Osos

My passion for clinical psychology arose when I was in high school. I was involved in a club called Best Buddies, where young adults my age with various intellectual and developmental disabilities gathered as a group to engage in social activities with other young adults without disabilities. The very first day at a Best Buddies event opened up a new door for me that I never knew existed. Suddenly I was in a room filled with kids who were so different from one other, each one of them having something that made them unique. What I wanted most at that moment is to find out how each disability made each of these kids different. Later that month, I found out that the only way I could truly know how to answer that question is to dive into the field of psychology, with the hope of working one on one with these unique kids with disabilities in the future.

As an undergraduate student at Loyola, I am learning the theoretical aspect of psychology. Much of this type of learning requires memorizing certain views and models made up by psychologists which will be the basis for different ways of treatment that I will use in the future. However, theory is not enough to truly understand the minds of individuals. The second piece to this very complex puzzle is application or practice. In order to engage in this second piece, I intend to go to graduate school to receive a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and pass the state license exam. During a Ph.D. program, I will be exposed to more in-depth study of the diagnosis and treatment of different disorders, engage with my own patients, and contribute to the research in the field of psychology. Although research is not my main career goal, I find it to be a crucial part of the learning process in order to truly understand what influences psychologists and the ways in which they treat their patients.

In order to prepare for graduate school, I am currently exposing myself to research by working at a research laboratory on the university campus. While in the laboratory, I learn how to conduct literature searches, the process of running a study, how to recruit participants, and how to write up research. One of the most important resources that I am learning in the laboratory is how to collaborate with different psychologists. As a psychologist, you are often dependent on other psychologists and researchers, especially those with more experience who can give their point of view to help improve treatment. I realize that knowing how to work with these professions now will truly help me in my future career.

This longing I have to understand the minds of other people is spawn by the intention of helping others understand their own minds. Often times, people struggle with recognizing that their unhappiness or incapacity to do basic functions is the product of something bigger, such as a mental disorder or disability. I want to be the person who helps free these people by adding a label to their problem while providing a possible solution, known as a treatment. I want to create a safe space, where people feel welcome to share their problems and worries. I hope that one day I can work as a clinical psychologist in a clinic or hospital setting. Although I find a wide range of specializations intriguing, I aspire to focus my attention on autism and depression. While these two disorders are very much different from each other, both can cause a serious



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## Kulze Scholarship Winners

impairment in daily functioning and can lead to social isolation. Social isolation can thus in turn worsen the condition that a person is in. No one should feel alone with their disorder. Something that will make me different from other psychologists in America is my knowledge and understanding of the Polish language and culture. While most kids complain when their parents send them to a Polish school in America, I was the one who was encouraging my mom to sign me up. Despite not knowing back then that I wanted to be a psychologist, I knew that no matter what career I would end up choosing, it would have to involve working with the people of my own heritage. Although many Polish people are traditional and don't believe in going to a stranger to talk to them about their problems, I have noticed a difference within the Polish American community in Chicago. They seem to have adapted some of the customs of this country and have become more open to things such as therapy. I am hoping that my background will make the Polish American people feel more entrusting in me and they will feel welcome and willing to come and share their problems with me. I hope that I can play a crucial role in the Polish American community by helping them solve their troubles and bringing out their happiness.

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## Chicago Society/Charles Komosa Golf Outing

would like to donate raffle prizes. Closest to the pin, longest drive and a few other contests are planned for golfers.

**All for the low cost of \$120 per golfer or \$40 for dinner/open bar.**

Any questions? Contact... **Chairman Mark Orwat** at 773-502-6969 or [marko123@att.net](mailto:marko123@att.net) or **Steve Rakowski** 847-204-4106 or [lsr1211@yahoo.com](mailto:lsr1211@yahoo.com)

To reserve your golf foursomes please contact the above Chicago Society members or register online at the Chicago Society website at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/golf-outing>. Individual golfers also welcome. Payment can be made via check or PayPal.

Advertising and hole sponsorships are available. These will be displayed at a tee box. Advertise your business with a tee/hole sponsorship!! For more information, contact **Mark Orwat** 773-502-6969 or [marko123@att.net](mailto:marko123@att.net) or **Frank Czaja** at 312-520-6144 or [frankcz@usa.net](mailto:frankcz@usa.net).

## Mailing of Printed Forums

As of January 2019, the mailing of The Forum via USPS will be to those that opt-in for the mailing. Please send your opt-in requests to **Chris Grzadziel** at [cgrzadziel@gmail.com](mailto:cgrzadziel@gmail.com) or 847-630-2863. Please respond by December 2018. The Forum will be e-mailed to members and is available on the Chicago Society website. Please send your current e-mail address if you are not receiving any Chicago Society e-mails.

AROUND  
THE  
SOCIETY

Our sympathy to the Baruch family on the passing of Michael Baruch, son of past member Marion Baruch. Michael was a prominent Chef in several of Chicago's top restaurants and was the author of several books on Polish cooking and Chicago street foods. May he rest in peace.

The Chicago Society will once again man the main beer tent at The Taste of Polonia. We will be working on the Friday of the fest which is August 31, 2018. For more information, contact **Frank Czaja** - [frankcz@usa.net](mailto:frankcz@usa.net). More information is available on the Chicago society website at [www.chicagosocietypna.org/taste-of-polonia](http://www.chicagosocietypna.org/taste-of-polonia). All volunteers must fill out a volunteer form which is also on the Chicago Society website.

The Taste of Polonia is also looking for volunteers throughout the weekend. Please contact **Mario Mikoda** for more information.

**Do you know a potential new member? Point them to the Chicago Society website for a membership application.**

## 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 Sto Lat!

- 04 Jan S Plachta
- 10 Casey Baczynski
- 16 Stanley M Jendzejec
- 16 Adam J Augustynski
- 20 Bernard L Pacyniak
- 28 Donald V Versen Sr.

## June Anniversaries

The Chicago Society would like to congratulate the following Brothers on their anniversary of being inducted into the Chicago Society.

**Brother Raymond Golenia** is celebrating his **10th Anniversary** and **Brother Andrew B Batorski** is celebrating his **35th Anniversary**.

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

## Summer Dress Code

Summer dress code is in effect from May to September for the General Meetings. Summer dress code includes casual shirt and slacks. Shorts, jeans and gym shoes are NOT permitted.

## Membership Directory Booklet

The membership directory booklet has been published. It is available for purchase for \$8 and will be available at the general meetings. The booklet includes the Chicago Society constitution, bylaws, pledge, and member contact information.

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## June 2018 Speaker & Dinner Meeting

Chopin Theatre was designed in 1918 by M.F. Strunch Architects as a 987-seat theater. Located across the Polish Triangle at 1543 W. Division Street. At that time “Polish Downtown” was the center for biggest Polish organizations, churches and newspapers. Around 2,000,000 Polish immigrants passed through across the theater’s intersection of Milwaukee, Ashland & Division.

At the middle of the 20th Century Polish American organizations along with its members left the area because of growing crime. When the Dyrkacz family moved to the area in 1986 half of the properties were vacant and the area was called “one of the most dangerous in the USA”.

In 1990 the vacant theater building was purchased and slowly renovated by Zygmunt Dyrkacz and his family. Today it houses a Main Stage (226 seats), Studio Theatre (up to 176) with its preceding Pregnant Buffalo Lounge. Plus the Algren Café.

Since then Chopin Theatre has grown into one of America’s most active arts centers, producing, co-producing or presenting theater, music, film, literary and social events around 500+ events annually -- some are 1 day specials and others for many weeks or months. A total of some 2,000 different presentations.

Chopin Theatre is one of a very few privately owned theaters supported by our savings and continuous management, marketing, maintenance and artistic efforts of Zygmunt and Lela.

Chopin Theatre is also the producer of I-Fest, Ideas in Motion I-Fest, an international festival of solo performances which has brought to Chicago 17 international artists from 10 countries—Austria, England, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland and Ukraine. This year Chopin Theatre celebrates it's 100th anniversary.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at White Eagle Events & Convention Center, 6839 N Milwaukee Ave, Niles, IL 60714. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00 pm with the dinner meeting starting at 7:00 pm. Please contact Brother **Mario Mikoda** at [meeting@chicagosocietypna.org](mailto:meeting@chicagosocietypna.org) or call (773) 444-0744 for reservations. You can also RSVP by going to the Chicago Society website. Please note: Any guests at the meeting must be prospective new members and you must confirm the reservation with Brother **Mario Mikoda**. No exceptions! All members must be current in their dues to attend the meeting! At each general monthly meeting, we offer and split a 50/50 raffle for the members. Please consider asking your wife or accountant for a few extra dollars to purchase \$5.00 or more in raffle tickets.

**The 2018 Chicago Society Fishing Derby was cancelled due to bad weather and high waves. A new date will be announced.**

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## Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch Round-Up

Cikowski, President, Polish Highlanders of America, Garry McCarthy and Paul Vallas, candidates for Mayor of Chicago; Dorota Malachowska, President, Gift From The Heart Organization / Dar Serca; Waldemar Czerpak, President Polish American Builders Association; Halina Bielowicz, Chairman Polish American Women's Action Committee; Bogdan Dola TVP News & Radio - President Polish American Foundation: Diann Marsalek Presiding Judge of the Traffic Court and Last Year's Grand Marshal; Tomasz and Anna Wojdyla – Owners Lone Tree Inn; Dan Patlak – Commissioner Cook County Board of Review; Margaret Ptaszynska of Polvision and host of Polish Radio 1030 AM (Polish Radio); Camille Kopielski – Charmain Lira Ensemble; Lucyna Migala – Founder and Director Lira Ensemble; Michael Niedzinski, Pres. Illinois Division, Polish American Congress and Officers and Directors; from the Polish Roman Catholic Union of America, Misia Jaminski, Vice President and James Robaczewski, Secretary/Treasurer; **Mario Mikoda**, President – Copernicus Foundation; Illinois State Representative, Luis Arroyo, Sr.; Maria Ciesla who will receive the Spirit Award from the Polish Museum of America; Judges of the Circuit Court – Ted Machnik, James Pieczonka, Steve Kozicki, Dan Kubasiak, Marty Lopez and Ronald Bartkowicz; Justice of the Appellate Court – Aurelia Pucinski; Mayor of Franklin Park – Barrett Pedersen; Mayor of Schiller Park – Nick Caifa; Mayor of River Grove – David Guerin; Commissioner Cook County Board, Chuy Garcia; Commissioner Luis Arroyo, Jr. Cook County Board; Following Aldermen that said would be present: Chicago Aldermen: Ald. Ariel Reboyras – 30<sup>th</sup> Ward 2017 Friend of Poland; Ald. Gilbert Villegas – 36<sup>th</sup> Ward; Ald. Millye Santiago – 31<sup>st</sup> Ward; Ald. Chris Tolafierro – 29<sup>th</sup> Ward; Ald. Edward Burke – 14<sup>th</sup> Ward; Anna Valencia – City Clerk; Edward Muszalski, President Adult Culture Club-PRCU; Adult Cultural Club PRCU – Cinderella Ball - Cinderella: Anna Tumiel and Prince Charming: Sander Burd; Iwona Bochenska, President of Sister Cities International; Kristin Barnett McCarthy, President Women's Bar Association of Illinois; Zygmunt Dyrkacz, Chopin Theatre; Kinga Aleksandrowicz, Public Affairs Manager, Office of Governor Rauner.

The Chicago Society entry in the parade was a float with the Richard Bubula Band on board playing for the spectators. Chicago Society marchers in the parade were President, **Steve Rakowski**, **Richard Ciesla**, **Richard Wiermanski**, **Paul** and Chester **Stolarczuk**, **Walter Piecewicz**, **Fred Koziol**, **Christopher Grzadziel**, **Zenon Kurdziel** and **Zenon Cebula**.

This was Brother **Ro Matuszczak's** 41<sup>st</sup> year as Chairman of the event. Special thanks to co-chairs **Chris Grzadziel** and **Adam Konopka** for their help. To Chris Matuszczak, who again aided Ro in the preparation of the event as well as Kasia Grzadziel in assisting Chris at the reception desk. All in all, it was a great day!



## Membership Dues

The following members have until the July General meeting to pay their dues or their membership in the Chicago Society will be forfeited. You may pay at the June or July meeting, via PayPal or send your payment to **Rick Wiermanski**, 1906 Holly Ave., Darien, IL 60561.

Batorski, George W	Kaes, Gerhard	Lizak, Chester A	Przybylo, Chester M	Tomczyk, Robert J
Cieslik, John C	Klos, Chester	Martwick, Robert	Rodriguez, Matt L	Tzanos, Alexander
Dondalski, Joseph D	Kolodziej, William	Mytych, Jerome F	Spula, Frank	Urbaszewski, Eugene R
Dropka, Michael C	Kosin, Gregory M	Nawrocki, Ronald J	Sraga, Les	
Gabryszewski, Thomas J	Kozlowski, Dariusz	Olech, Ronald J, C.P.A.	Stawski, Stanley O	
Ihssen, Dale	Kupiec, Mark J	Pfannkuche, Christopher	Teschky, John P	



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