



The Forum

of the Chicago Society, Lodge 1450 PNA

Our Second Century of Brotherhood and Service

VOLUME 70

February 2019

NUMBER 2

COMING EVENTS

Friday, February 15, 2019

Scholarship Application
Deadline
More info in the Forum

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

February General Meeting
Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant
6:00 pm

RESERVATIONS

by February 18 to

meeting@chicagosocietypna.org

or (847) 635-0883 or

<https://www.chicagosocietypna.org>

Saturday, March 2, 2019

Śledź Mardi Gras
Dinner & Pageant
Lone Tree Manor
Niles, IL
6:00 pm

Monday, March 4, 2019

March Board Meeting
PNA Home Office
6:00 pm

FORUM Deadline

Send all articles to

editor@chicagosocietypna.org

February 2019 Meeting and Speaker

We are happy to announce that our speaker for the February meeting will be Donna Solecka Urbikas. She will have autographed copies of her book, *My Sister's Mother: A Memoir of War, Exile, and Stalin's Siberia* available for \$20.00 at the meeting so please come prepared!



Donna Urbikas' book was a Finalist for the Chicago Writers Association, Society of Midland Authors, Midwest Publishers Association, and Bronze winner of Forward INDIES awards all in 2016. A graduate of the University of Illinois in Biology, the Illinois Institute of Technology in Environmental Engineering, and the University of Chicago

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2018 Śledź

Chairmen Brothers **Ted Makarewicz** and **Anthony Kawalkowski** cordially invite you to attend the 2019 Annual Chicago Society Śledź on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at Lone Tree Manor, 7730 N Milwaukee Ave, Niles IL 60714. The festivities will begin with a social hour (cash bar) at 6:00 pm with dinner being served at 7:00 pm. The cost for adults is \$50 and children up to 12 is \$25. Appropriate costumes are encouraged and masks will be provided.



The five course family style dinner will include Herring, Jellied Chicken, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Spring Greens Salad with strawberries, cheese and walnuts, Barbeque Ribs, Baked Herb Fish Filets, Polish Style Beef Roll Ups, Fresh Boiled Potatoes with dill and butter, Pierogi, Coffee, Tea, Pastries, and Paczki.

After dinner, the traditional pageant representing Śledź will be held followed by the crowning of St. Joseph for 2019. The gentleman selected is 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 a cash bar, raffle with prizes and dancing to live music by Bubula.

To RSVP, visit the Śledź page at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/sledz> on the Chicago Society website or contact **Ted Makarewicz** at 847-456-0717 or hogski@hotmail.com.



CHICAGO SOCIETY FORUM

A monthly news bulletin for the Chicago Society PNA membership

Director of Publications
editor@chicagosocietypna.org

Visit Our Website At
www.chicagosocietypna.org

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Dear Brothers,

Happy February! A month closer to Spring!

Just wanted to give you a recap of what you might have missed.

First of all, if you missed last month's meeting, there was a magician who spoke to the members about his networking and how to be successful on a limited budget. He talked about how he became interested in magic but mostly spoke how you can mingle with others on facebook pages and group sites and how he promoted his business by word of mouth; Seems like nothing but that is a job in itself.

Secondly, I would like to THANK all who came out to support and attend our Annual Chicago Society Inaugural Ball. It was a successful event as we made some money. It was also very well attended by some notable attendees. If you were not there, you probably missed some great photo ops of the Honorable Piotr Semeniuk, Vice Counsel of the Polish Consulate, the Honorable Cook County Assessor Fritz Kaegi, Honorable Cook County Board of Review Commissioner Dan Patlak, **Marty Obrecki**, President of PAPA, **Frank Spula**, President of the Polish National Alliance, who celebrated his birthday with a couple of members at the bar at midnight and birthday wishes sung to **Walter Paciewiecz**. We also had representatives from the Legion of Young Polish Women and the Polish Museum of America. And special THANKS go out to the evening's entertainment, The Anthony Kawalkowski Orchestra along with the Lechici Dance Group from the Polish Scouts. And I cannot forget the members of the Polish American Chamber of Commerce who were the honorees of this year's Ball.

The event was held at the same place as last year and at the same time. I also know that there were 2 other events going on but I was really disappointed in the number of attendees. We only had 67 😊! WE SHOULD HAVE HAD MORE. Special Thanks to our Chairman Brother **Chris Grzadziel** and wife Kasia, along with his co-chair Brother **Ro Matuszczak** and wife Chris. Outstanding time was had by all! We need to support our own members and have a good time while we can. I, we as the Board, would like to know why so little of our members were there. Was it the price?? The location?? The weather?? Or is it me?? Brother **Chris Grzadziel** will be posting a survey on-line and at one of the upcoming meetings, an anonymous one, where no one will see who wrote what but only what they wrote. It is very important so we know how to fix it. How we can attract more members and friends to come out to other events and make some money. At this rate, we may be in financial difficulty. Let's hope not. We have many plans and ideas on old events. And it started with the Inaugural Ball. Next up will be our annual Śledź dinner, Chicago Society's version of a Polish Mardi Gras chaired by Brother **Ted Makarewicz** and co-chair **Anthony**



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February 2019 Meeting and Speaker

Writing Certificate Program. Ms. Urbikas has presented at various industry venues, published several technical articles, participated in many writing workshops, has been interviewed many times on radio and TV, and has spoken at many conferences and libraries.

Ms. Urbikas has a long and varied career, beginning with high school biology teacher, environmental engineer, mother, public speaker, volunteer, realtor, and writer. Her first book is published by the University of Wisconsin Press (2016). Entitled, *My Sister's Mother: A Memoir of War, Exile and Stalin's Siberia*, it is a searing tale of war, trauma, and survival. Author Leonard Kniffel (*A Polish Son in the Motherland*) says, "A gripping study of family dynamics, this is also a must-read for World War II history buffs." Antony Polonsky, chief historian of the Museum of Polish Jews in Warsaw, states, "This poignant and moving memoir is essential reading for all who want to understand the nature of the Soviet Gulag system and the problems faced by its former inmates adapting to a normal life."

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at Sawa's Old Warsaw Restaurant, 9200 W Cermak Rd, Broadview, IL 60155. Cocktail hour starts at 6:00 pm with the dinner meeting starting at 7:00 pm. Please contact Brother **Ro Matuszczak** at meeting@chicagosocietypna.org or call (847) 635-0883 for reservations. You can also RSVP by going to the Chicago Society website. 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. Based on a resolution voted in by the Officers and Directors, all proceeds from the raffles will be placed into a special Youth Fund.



Brothers,

I hope you all survived the "Polar Vortex" or as I remember it being called... Winter. I hope you are still fulfilling your New Year's Resolutions and I hope that one of them is to become more active in Chicago Society events.

We started off the year with the Inaugural Ball. While attendance was low, we all had a good time. We continue on with the Śledź in a few weeks and I hope to see all of you there. Also, make sure you mark your calendars for the Polish Constitution Day Pre-Parade Brunch on May 4th. More information will be posted in future Forums.

February also celebrates the birth of General Thaddeus Kosciuszko who was born in 1746. He is a hero of two nations. He fought in both nations to support freedom and liberty. He is also a part of the Society's pledge "...That for the truths which this flag represents, Thaddeus Kosciuszko gave his services – Casimir Pulaski, his life...".

I hope to see you at the next meeting and events. Fraternally, Brother **Christopher T. Grzadziel**, Editor

2019 Inaugural Ball Post Mortem Survey

As you may be aware, the attendance at this year's Inaugural Ball was very poor. We had 67 total attendees but of all of our current members, only 21 attended. In the past this event had well over 120 attendees. This event requires tremendous amount of work and personal time from many different individuals. So that we can better plan this event in the future, we are conducting a post mortem survey of the event. The survey can be downloaded from the website at: <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/survey>. Copies of the survey will also be distributed at the February meeting. You can e-mail the completed survey to inauguralball@chicagosocietypna.org or if you prefer to stay anonymous, a drop box will be available at the February meeting. Please take a few minutes to fill this out and let us know what you think.

2019 Inaugural Ball Recap

The Chicago Society Inaugural Ball was held on January 26, 2019 at Victoria in the Park, Mount Prospect, IL. This year the Chicago Society Honoree was the Polish American Chamber of Commerce. Co-chairpersons for this event were **Ro Matuszczak** and **Peter Dykas**.

The event started at 6:30 pm in the upstairs reception area with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. At 7:30 pm we moved to the main dining room. We started the evening program with the national anthems of the Republic of Poland and the United States of America. Singing the anthems was Paulina Kosinska, a member of the Lechici Dancers of the Polish Scouting Organization. Chairperson **Chris Grzadziel** welcomed everyone to the Inaugural and thanked them for braving the snow and cold weather. Our St. Joseph, **Peter Dykas**, presented the Invocation. A delicious dinner was served including a flaming banana foster presented with a parade by the wait staff. During dinner, the **Anthony Kawalkowski** Orchestra provided dinner music while visiting all the tables.

After dinner we began the main program with a traditional Polonez performed by the Lechici Dancers. In attendance was the Vice Consul General of the Republic of Poland, Piotr Semeniuk. He briefly addressed the attendees. Peter Dykas then introduced and presented the honoree, the Polish American Chamber of Commerce.

Following the honoree, the outgoing president, **Mario Mikoda**, addressed the attendees. We continued with the induction of the 2019 Officers and Directors. Presiding over the induction was the Honorable **John A. Wasilewski**. The 2019 Chicago Society President, **Peter Dykas** presented his inauguration speech.

The Lechici Dancers concluded the program with a presentation of dances from Łowicz. They then started off the dancing with a waltz where they picked partners from the attendees. The **Anthony Kawalkowski** Orchestra provided wonderful dancing music for the rest of the evening. Although the crowd was somewhat small, the evening was enjoyable.

Some of the dignitaries in attendance were:

- ◆ Mr. Piotr Semeniuk – Vice Consul General of the Republic of Poland
- ◆ Mr. Frank Spula – President of the Polish National Alliance
- ◆ Mr. Fritz Kaegi – Cook County Assessor
- ◆ Mrs. Maria Ciesla – President Emeritus of the Polish Museum of America
- ◆ Mr. Mario Mikoda – President of the Copernicus Center
- ◆ Mr. Stanley Skoczen – President of the Polish American Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Mr. Martin Obrecki – President of the Polish American Police Association
- ◆ Mr. Dan Patlak – Commissioner Cook County Board of Review
- ◆ Ms. Kathy Lesny Evans (1st VP) and Ms. Dorota Kalinowski (Treasurer) – Legion of Young Polish Women

The program book for this Inaugural can be viewed on the Chicago Society website at:

<https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/2019-program-book>

A great big thank you goes out to both **Ro Matuszczak** and **Peter Dykas** for their support and guidance as we prepared for the event. A special thank you goes out to my wife, Kasia, for her support, encouragement and proof reading services.

Pictures from the event can be found on the Chicago Society website.

Chris Grzadziel
Chairperson, 2019 Inaugural Ball



More pictures from the 2019 Inaugural Ball can be found on our website at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/2019-inaugural-ball>

February Birthdays



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

- 01 Francis Gembala
- 03 Richard W Wiermanski
- 04 Jon Osada
- 04 Edmund Gronkiewicz
- 07 Raymond Golenia
- 13 Brian A Bernardoni
- 23 Terrance L Przybylski
- 28 William B Sawicki

February Anniversaries

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

Brother **Zenon Olejniczak** is celebrating his **10th Anniversary.**

Brother **Edmund A Nowak Jr.** is celebrating his **45th Anniversary.**

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

Winter Dress Code

Winter dress code is in effect from October to April for the General Meetings. Winter dress code is Business Casual — suit or slacks, sports coat and business shirt; tie optional.

James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship

The Chicago Society Foundation, affiliated with the Chicago Society of the Polish National Alliance, Lodge 1450 of the PNA, announced that it will again be funding up to three \$7,500.00 scholarships through its James and Lillian Kulze Scholarship Fund. These scholarship awards are available to U.S. residents of Polish descent with financial need who are pursuing academic studies in college, graduate, or professional school.

Applications will be accepted through February 15, 2019. Selections will be made in April 2019 for the subsequent fall academic term. Forms, dates, and other information regarding selection criteria and requirements can be found on the Chicago Society’s website at <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/foundation-kulze-scholarship>. Please email Brother **Walter M. Piecewicz** for further information at wpiecewicz@immaculaw.com.

Proposed for Chicago Society Membership

The following gentlemen have applied for membership in the Chicago Society of the PNA. If any member has an objection regarding the admission of any one 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.

Jackson Gondela-Haack

Address: 505 N Lake Shore Drive—Unit 2606, Chicago, IL 60611
Phone: 872-400-0703 **Occupation:** Student, Harold Washington College
Birth Date: March 26 **Birthplace:** Chicago
Education: Oak Park-River Forest High School
Hobbies: Fishing
Sponsors: Brothers Frank Gondela and Thaddeus Makarewicz

Andrew R. Noyszewski

Address: 772 Holly Dr, Bartlett, IL 60103
Phone: 630-830-8172 **Occupation:** Owner, Kidzmagic
Birth Date: September 29 **Birthplace:** Chicago
Education: Bachelors degree, University of Illinois at Chicago
Hobbies: Restoration of classic cars, home improvement
Spouse: Ewa (Rys)
Sponsors: Brothers Peter Dykas and Chris Grzadziel

David J. Rucci

Address: 6842 N. Dowagiac Ave, Chicago, IL 60646
Phone: 773-550-4383 **Occupation:** Retired, Chicago Police Sergeant
Birth Date: April 7 **Birthplace:** Chicago
Education: 2 yr. College
Hobbies: Numerous
Sponsors: Brothers Ron “Topper” Topczewski and Robert “Rocky” Nowaczyk

AROUND
THE
SOCIETY

Richard and **Maria Ciesla** celebrated 50 years of marriage on December 28, 2018, with a renewal of vows during Mass at St. Mary of the Woods Church with Rev. Aiden O'Boyle

presiding. The celebration continued at Wildwood Tavern with their children and grandchildren: Elizabeth, Douglas, Madeleine, and Caroline Hodgson came in from Iowa; **Gregory** (prepared a video composite of 50 years), Sara, Maeve, and Charles Ciesla; Mark, Julie, Isabella, and Thomas Ciesla; and Alexandra (the family's Martha Stewart), Curtis, Henry, Wyatt, and, in memory, the late James Cornwell. Rich and Maria hope to continue for many years to come with the grace of God.



Richard and **Maria Ciesla** are proud to announce the promotion of their son and former Chicago Society Brother, **Mark**, to Sergeant in the Glenview Police Department. He has been with the Department for 15 years; and on January 15th, he was sworn in by the Village President. His wife Julie and their children, Isabella and Thomas, and several family members were present to witness Mark's promotion.



News from The Chicago Society Foundation

The Chicago Society Foundation awards grants of various amounts to Polish American organizations and individuals. We appreciate those groups who respond with notes of gratitude. At the January 28, 2019 meeting, we received thank you letters from the Lechici Dancers of the Polish Scouting Organization who support the development of American youth of Polish descent; from the Irena Sendler project for curriculum and project development for Chicago Area Schools; and from Northeastern Illinois University student Adrian Antos. Mr. Antos, majoring in Performance in the College of Arts & Sciences, was recently selected to receive the Chicago Society Foundation Scholarship. The Scholarship is funded by an endowment established at Northeastern Illinois University Foundation in 2010, and 2011 by the Chicago Society Foundation. The University Foundation administers the Scholarship that is given to an American student of Polish heritage. The scanned thank you letters can be viewed here: <https://www.chicagosocietypna.org/thank-you>

2019 Dues Notices

Just a reminder that your membership dues are to be paid by March 1, 2019. You can call Rich Ciesla, (773 750-3410), or email rciesla@sbcglobal.net to be informed of the amount you owe. According to the by-laws you will be considered delinquent as of March 1st. You may send your checks to Chicago Society, 6348 Milwaukee Ave. #360, Chicago, IL 60646-3728 or pay by PayPal or bring the dues to the next General meeting on February 20th.

Chairpersons needed for upcoming events

Social Activities Director, Brother **Tony Kawalkowski**, has requested volunteers to chair upcoming Chicago Society events. These include our annual golf outing and picnic. The golf outing is tentatively scheduled for Friday July, 12. A date for the picnic is not set but it is normally scheduled for mid to late August.

If you are interested in chairing either of these events, please contact **Tony Kawalkowski** at a.kawalkowski@comcast.net.

Both of these events have been long staples of the Society and are very fun events. Unfortunately if a chairperson is not found, these events may be cancelled.

Bring your ideas and enthusiasm and help make these events bigger and better than ever.

Continued from page 2 - President's Message

Kawalkowski. I remember when I first joined, that it was well attended and we had fun. We will continue with the fun but only you can make it successful. Tickets are a reasonable \$50 per person but see the ad of what comes with it. We think it is money well spent. Where else can you go out as a couple and have a delicious dinner, dancing and entertainment for that price. And a prize will be awarded for the best costume, not required and masks will be provided. New this year, is that a portion of the profits go to children / youth special fund. So please come out, support our events, and have a fun time before Lent begins.

Last but not least, I would like to start a membership drive. We have 3 new members being inducted in the next 2 meetings and hoping for many more in the upcoming months. My goal would be pushing at least 10 new members and bring back at least 10 more from previous years! I hope we can do it. Let's be that organization that members want to be associated with! It's not too much to ask for...is it?

Fraternally,
Brother **Peter Dykas**, President



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